

Major and Patten try to lift Tory spirits with a dose of new year optimism

## Share leap offers hope for '92

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND MICHAEL CLARK

THE prime minister, underlining the government's determination to weather the recession without being panicked into seeking a short cut to electoral popularity, insisted last night that the economy was on the mend.

After weeks of grim economic news, marked by fears of a rise in interest rates, slowing business and consumer confidence, the stock market offered the government much-needed relief, ending the year with its biggest one-day rise for more than 12 months.

In addition, home lenders are predicting cheaper mortgages in 1992 and the Confederation of British Industry supports the government in its refusal to countenance devaluation.

Labour scorned Mr Major's claim that the economy was picking up. John Cunningham, the Opposition's campaign co-ordinator, said: "There is still no sign of recovery. No one believes it to be any more imminent now than it was last July." Mr Major's first year in office had been a "dismal failure".

Tory MPs conceded that the surge in share prices was based on thin trading in the holiday period and owed more to events on Wall Street than in London.

In a fresh blow to the prime minister's hopes of an economic pick-up before the election, the CBI revised downwards its forecasts for this year and predicted growth of

only 1 per cent, instead of its earlier projection of 1.75 per cent. The Treasury forecast in the autumn statement was 2.25 per cent.

The rise of 73.1 points in the FT-SE index of Britain's top 100 companies added momentum to a concerted effort by Mr Major and Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, to dispel the gloom that has settled over their backbenchers.

In new-year messages intended to demonstrate the government's resolve to stick to its tough anti-inflationary policies, Mr Patten said that the worst of the recession was over and Mr Major maintained that the economic outlook was improving. "We are now seeing the first signs of recovery, and all forecasters expect to see our economy growing again in the coming year," Mr Major said.

Mr Patten also made plain that the government would not change tack, praising Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, the target of much Tory backbench sniping. "It's important to hold our nerve. It's important to stick resolutely behind the Chancellor, who has been extremely courageous. It's not easy running the economy during a world recession," he said in a radio interview.

With sterling, which drifted close to its European floor yesterday, set to come under intense pressure next week on the foreign exchange markets, Mr Major echoed warnings from Treasury ministers that the government was prepared to raise interest rates to defend the pound. He also reinforced the Chancellor's rejection, as "fool's gold", suggestions that a devaluation would pave the way for cuts in lending rates.

"I will never take short-term action that I know to be wrong, simply because it might be popular," the prime minister said, in what was also a sideswipe at jittery Tory backbenchers.

City investors, hoping to take advantage of the latest wave of American optimism, chased the equity market sharply higher. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 2,493.1 in thin trading which saw



Ring the changes: the bells of St Paul's Cathedral, which last night heralded the new year for the first time since 1945

only 313 million shares change hands. Dealers described the market's gains as largely technical.

It was the biggest one-day rise since October 1990, when Britain signalled its intention of joining the ERM and the market responded with a leap of 73.5 points.

The City took its lead from a 62-point surge overnight on Wall Street, where share prices reached yet another all-time high. The recent cut in the discount rate — to its lowest level for 27 years — has rekindled optimism about an American economic revival.

Pointing to the government's achievements over the past 12 months, which included reducing inflation from 11 per cent to 4 per cent, eight cuts in interest rates and record spending on the

health service, Mr Major, in his message, reminded the country that "all this has been accomplished in the face of a world recession".

He also sought to sharpen distinctions between the Tories and Labour, citing his tough stance at Maastricht as evidence that "Conservatives are not opportunists who flip from one policy to another as the opinion polls turn".

The Tories were "the party of low tax" and he wanted to build on that reputation. In a further hint that inheritance tax will be eased, either in the budget or under a new Conservative administration, Mr Major said.

Continued on page 16, col 5

Diary, page 10  
Leading article, page 11  
Equity bulls, page 28  
Dow record, page 27

## CBI cuts forecast of 1992 growth rate to 1 per cent

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WITH foreign exchange markets braced for the renewed pressure on sterling, after today's holiday, that could force Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to raise interest rates by half a point, the pound ended the old year in a fragile state.

Base rate has been 10.5 per cent since September. Given that the continued weakness of the economy would warrant a lower rate, any increase would be exclusively to defend sterling within the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The economy's weakness was highlighted yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry, which sharply revised downwards its forecast for economic growth in 1992. Douglas McWilliams, the organisation's chief economic adviser, now foresees only 1 per cent growth this year. The last CBI forecast was for 1.7 per cent growth.

In his autumn statement in November, Mr Lamont predicted 2.25 per cent growth but told the *Financial Times* in an end-of-year interview

that this could turn out weaker. Mr Lamont has undertaken to do whatever is necessary to defend the pound within its current exchange-rate mechanism bands, but has firmly ruled out devaluation or any pre-budget "quick fix".

In an extremely thin New Year's eve market, foreign exchange dealers shrugged off the Chancellor's reaffirmation of government policy on sterling, focusing instead on Labour's lead in opinion polls and the poor economic background against which John Major must face an election.

Mr McWilliams, whose growth forecast for 1991 was among the most accurate, said the first half of this year would prove "sluggish at best". With falling inflation and rising productivity, he said, Britain was poised to be highly competitive when the world economy revived, "but it would be unrealistic to expect rapid progress in the early part of the year when we are swimming against the tide of the world economy".

The pound closed in London at around its low for 1991, a little under half a pence lower against the mark at DM2.8369, less than half a pence above its estimated effective floor of DM2.8325, at which the Bank of England must intervene.

European foreign exchange markets will be open again tomorrow, but the full international market will be restored only when Japan returns from its end-of-year holiday on Monday. That is when City economists expect the first serious pressure on the pound.

The latest pointer to America's economic health provided little to lift the gloom. Washington's chief forecasting gauge of future activity fell 0.3 per cent in November, its biggest setback in ten months, as consumer confidence and a number of other business barometers turned sharply down.

Diary, page 10  
Leading article, page 11  
ICI chief's call, page 27

## Thirty years is a short time in politics

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

A CONSERVATIVE prime minister urging Britain to stand proudly at the heart of Europe: British troops sent to Kuwait: dithering over Sunday observance: a government trying to kick-start the flagging economy: and a political storm brewing over the thorny issue of immigration. It sounds like an ungenerous summary of John Major's first year in office rather than the headlines of 1991, the year whose official secrets spill into the public domain today as government documents kept under wraps for 30 years are released. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*, perhaps.

Then, as now, Europe troubled the Conservatives, as backbenchers com-

plained that entry to the Common Market would betray Britain's most ancient political traditions. But the prospect of being left out in the cold as Europe gathered strength under French leadership was evidently more compelling to Harold Macmillan and his colleagues. If Supermac favoured "floating in", it was only as a means of keeping the French threat at bay. He and his colleagues were no more impressed by the European social charter than John Major's cabinet is today.

Like the Lawson boom today, Macmillan's reminder to affluent Britons that they had never had it so good was a distant memory by 1961. Selwyn Lloyd, then Chancellor and later Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, described the econom-

ic situation as more serious than at any time in the previous 10 years, while the cabinet sought desperately the tonic which would restore growth to the economy, paring down welfare spending and urging wage restraint.

The government shied away from the problem of Sunday observance, warned by officials that tinkering could prove a "grave political embarrassment". Compulsory breath tests were also judged to be too rigorous for British motorists.

Times do change, however. In 1961, the Cold War was raging, and the threat of nuclear conflict present at every conference table. At home, the cabinet waged a secret war against CND, fearing that the battle for the hearts and minds of the public

was in danger of being lost. George Blake received a 42-year jail sentence for spying, and the Berlin wall went up, compelling the Western powers to contemplate war.

John F Kennedy founded the peace corps and the myth of Camelot, but directed more money and arms to the civil war in Laos and unleashed a reckless attack on the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. Little progress was made by JFK and Nikita Khrushchev at their Vienna summit meeting in June.

Thirty years later, as the veil of secrecy is drawn aside a little, the polarised world of 1961 may occasion a sense of *déjà vu*, but probably inspires little nostalgia.

Thirty years on, page 5

## St Paul's bells ring out after 46 years

BY ALISON ROBERTS AND HARVEY ELLIOTT



Rutskoi: Russia is in a state of chaos

## Deputy rounds on Yeltsin

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN and the rest of the European Community yesterday recognised Ukraine and seven other former Soviet republics, the day after the new Commonwealth of Independent States agreed at their Minsk summit meeting on a common strategic nuclear command. The EC has already recognised Russia.

But the new commonwealth entered 1992 with its future uncertain, as Aleksandr Rutskoi, President Yeltsin's deputy, launched a vituperative attack on Mr Yeltsin. He gave a warning that the Russian Federation was in a state of chaos and could fall apart as the Soviet Union had done.

The future of the four-million-strong armed forces of the former Soviet Union was still not clear after Monday's nine-hour meeting of commonwealth leaders.

Continued on page 16, col 6

Army fate open, page 6  
Diary, page 10  
Mary Dejevsky, page 10  
Letters, page 11

At home, however, the AA reported almost deserted roads as travellers left the car at home and used public transport. The Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association estimated yesterday that in spite of the generous tips to be expected, only about half of the capital's 70,000 cabbies would be having their busiest night of the year.

The old year went out in traditional rollicking style across the country. Thousands of Britons, who rushed to the ski slopes after hearing about excellent skiing conditions, enjoyed their new year celebrations in the ski resorts of France, Switzerland and Austria.

A rush of last-minute holiday bookings were made after record snowfalls in the Alps. Many would-be skiers were turned away by travel agents yesterday and demand now far outweighs supply. "It is absolutely fantastic now," the Ski Club of Great Britain said. "Conditions are good almost everywhere. It is the best new year skiing we have had for many years."

Lizzie Norton, of specialist agency Ski Solutions, which claims to have booked 30 per cent more holidays than at this time last year, said: "The only hope is for those prepared to drive out to the Alps." If the snow lasts until the spring, many believe that more than 800,000 Britons will take to the pistes this year.

For the mainstream summer holiday market, however, the dog days between Christmas and the new year were the calm before what could become a storm which could severely blow predictions of a record money making season away off course.

"Some people are hipping up the market by claiming that bookings are way ahead of last year," said Charles Newbold, managing director of market leader Thomson Holidays. "It is true that bookings are up, but so they should be when compared with last year when we were entering the Gulf war."

Continued on page 16, col 3

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## Labour says set-aside not working

The European Community set-aside scheme intended to cut grain production in Britain has failed in its objective, according to figures disclosed by the Labour party.

Far from shrinking the amount of cereal production, under the scheme the amount of grain available has actually increased over the last year, they say.

Farmers can receive up to £70,000 a head in incentive payments to join the scheme. Dr David Clark, shadow agriculture minister, said yesterday: "This proves that the scheme as it stands is a recipe for failure and a nonsense: it just isn't working."

"It is clear that farmers are taking out of production only the most marginal land on which cereal growing was difficult anyway, and increasing the yield on the good land." Page 2

## Popular choice

Elizabeth and James were easily the most popular names announced in the daily births columns of the *Times* last year, but Emily is the most popular first name for girls since the lists were first compiled in 1947.

Alexander was the second most popular first name for boys and Charlotte for girls. Details, page 16

## Militias join

President Gamsakhurdia came under a fresh threat yesterday when paramilitary factions in Tbilisi formed a coalition to oust the besieged leader of Georgia. Hundreds of new fighters have arrived in the capital to join the forces ranged against him... Page 6

INDEX	
Arms	8, 14
Births, marriages, deaths	12, 13
Crosswords	13, 16
Law Report	24
Letters	11
Obituaries	12
Sport	17-23
TV & radio	15
Weather	16





# EC set-aside scheme failing to cut grain output, says Labour

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL figures show that the European Community's set-aside scheme for farmland is failing in its object of cutting grain production in Britain, the shadow agriculture minister said yesterday.

Although farmers are receiving up to £70,000 each in incentive payments to join the scheme, and the land area used for cereal production is shrinking considerably, grain production has increased over last year, David Clark said.

The area under cereal cultivation in the United Kingdom has shrunk, because of land set aside from produc-

tion, from 3,874,000 hectares in 1989 to 3,659,000 hectares in 1990 and 3,496,000 hectares now. However, the United Kingdom grain harvest in the same period went from 22.7 million tons in 1989 to 22.6 million tons in 1990 and back up to 22.7 million tons for 1991.

The 1991 grain harvest figure has not yet been published by the agriculture ministry but is contained in the harvest review of the specialist journal *Agricultural Supply Industry*, published shortly before Christmas. Yesterday the ministry con-

firmed that it was accurate. Dr Clark said: "This proves that the scheme as it stands is a recipe for failure and a nonsense: it just isn't working."

"It is clear that farmers are taking out of production only the most marginal land on which cereal growing was difficult anyway, and increasing the yield on the good land. The object of the scheme, which was to reduce Europe's grain mountain, is being completely defeated."

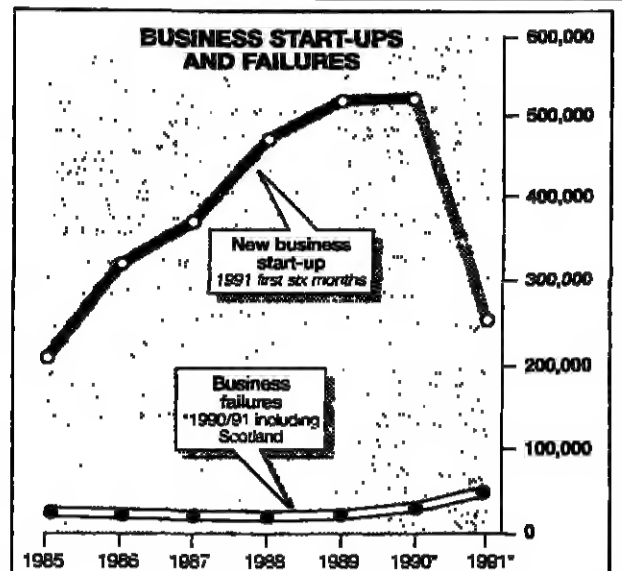
The present proposals by Ray McSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, for reform of the common agricultural policy would make set-aside compulsory on many farms, he said.

Labour wants the scheme abolished and replaced by a system of "green premiums", which would offer support to those who farmed in an environmentally sensitive way.

Dr Clark has built up an analysis of the set-aside scheme in Britain from a series of parliamentary answers.

This discloses that six farmers in England and one in Scotland are being paid more than £70,000 a year each to leave their land alone, with another 70 receiving annual payments of more than £30,000.

Asked whether the grain harvest figures showed that the set-aside scheme was not working, an agriculture ministry spokesman said: "We must assume that without the land being taken out of production, the figures would be considerably higher."



## New firms defy record failures

By PETER VICTOR

AROUND 460,000 new companies were formed last year, as a record number of firms folded.

Figures from Dun & Bradstreet, a business information company, show that company failures increased from 930 a week to 995 a week, or 199 each working day, in the last quarter of 1991. More than 47,000 businesses in Britain collapsed in the last 12 months.

According to figures compiled by National Westminster Bank, however, although start-ups to June 1991 were down by 7 per cent on the previous six months, they remained ahead of pre-1989 levels.

"The engine of new enterprise in the 90s is not misfiring, but merely throttling back," Jane Bradford, head of small business services at Nat West, said. "Our index reveals no shortage in those wishing to start up, but with

consumer spending still depressed, new market opportunities are more difficult to spot."

The bank's index is based on numbers of new businesses opening an account with the bank adjusted to reflect national figures on the basis of its market share.

Dun & Bradstreet said its figures were the highest recorded since the company started monitoring business failures in 1980 when there were 10,651. "The figures are worse than we predicted last April when we forecast that 40,000 British businesses would fail this year," Philip Mellor, its marketing manager, said. "The really worrying message from these figures is that the situation is getting worse."

He said companies should be careful about how they do business. "Well established companies as well as new ones are going to the wall."

## Lenders predict interest rate fall

By JAMIE DETTMER

MORTGAGE holders could see interest rates fall by the end of the year, according to a survey of ten banks, building societies and brokers.

However, any recovery in house prices will be slow and unlikely to start until the second half of the year. Most lenders in the survey by *Which?* Mortgage see only modest improvements in the housing market this year.

The most optimistic prediction for interest rates is given by the National Westminster bank. Gil Gillis, managing director of NatWest Home

Loans, says that the mortgage rate will fall by 1.5 per cent by the end of the year.

Four other lenders predicted a rate of 10.5 per cent by the end of the year. However, the Woolwich Building Society, Household Mortgage Corporation and brokers John Charcol, said the rate will stay at 11.5 per cent.

Several said affordability had returned to the market with an improved ratio between earnings to house prices. Even so, they recognised job security fears were preventing people buying.

## League steps up anti-hunt pressure

By JOHN SHAW

MASTERS of foxhounds and MPs will be quarry for the League Against Cruel Sports as the campaign against hunting is stepped up in the new year.

The organisation has supporters working under cover watching up to 40 hunts, James Barrington, its executive director, said. They are watching, photographing and videoing meets throughout the country.

The Prince of Wales was caught up in the growing controversy last year after a kill by the Quorn hunt was secretly filmed by the league. He was criticised again at the weekend for taking his son Prince Harry, aged seven, and Zara Phillips, aged ten, daughter of the Princess Royal, hunting with the North Norfolk Harriers.

A private member's bill to protect wild mammals will also come before the Commons on February 14. The bill, being introduced by Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull and vice-president of the 25,000-strong league, will seek to give them the same degree of protection afforded to domestic animals. The measure is unlikely to become law because of the imminence of a general election, but it will give MPs a chance to state their views in an increasingly acrimonious debate.

Mr Barrington said that Prince Charles was flying in the face of public opinion, which showed that 80 per cent polled were opposed to fox hunting. "We are determined to stamp this thing out," he said. "People are getting just a little sick of not just seeing the royal family in these activities but the general side effects of what happens when a hunt goes out."

The British Field Sports Society said that one million people would attend hunts over the holiday but Mr Barrington said hunts were monitored throughout the country "and nothing like a million people were out on Boxing day."

Meanwhile, the North Norfolk Harriers had an exhilarating but quiet day riding over the estate of Captain William Bulwar-Long near Aylesham. It was a pony club meet, about 40 children were out, but nothing was killed.

"We chased a few hares but killing isn't what it's about," Roger Bradbury, joint master, said. "It is all about the enjoyment of the chase and riding over the countryside."



Dognapped: Steve Kennedy with two of the hounds caught on his property

## Hounds captured in chase

THE owner of a rest home rounded up five foxhounds and kept them locked in a stable for five hours while he demanded compensation from the Dartmoor hunt for damage caused by the dogs.

Steve Kennedy, aged 23, of the Merrifield Farm home in South Brent, Devon, said that 30 hounds had chased a fox through the grounds of the home, causing hundreds of pounds of damage and terrifying residents. He and rest home worker Darren Hannaford rounded up five hounds, then Mr Kennedy drove after the hunt and said that, if it wanted the dogs back, it would have to pay for the damage. The hunt rode off and Mr Kennedy held the dogs until it agreed to pay compensation.

Yesterday the hunt offered

£50. "I'm not going to be bought for fifty quid, so I told them to make a larger cheque out... to the League Against Cruel Sports," Mr Kennedy said. The hunt has refused, and Mr Kennedy is now considering legal action.

He said that his stand was a matter of principle. "They came charging through the grounds as some of the residents looked on in absolute horror," he said. "It was horrendous and sickening. The pack was in a frenzy."

"The noise was appalling, the hounds were obviously in full hunting mode and kept running up and down the valley to the rear of us. I had told the Dartmoor hunt they were forbidden from using the land, but they totally disregarded our wishes."

Mr Kennedy and Mr Han-

naford rounded up the five hounds with the belts from their trousers and shepherded them into Mr Kennedy's car, before locking them in a stable. "We told the hunt they could have their dogs back if they made an offer for the distress they caused," he said. "We called the RSPCA and found out an appropriate diet for hunting dogs and then we fed them."

"After all, it's not their fault. It's the hunters who let the dogs run wild."

"They called round and were patronising and aristocratic. They think they can just buy us off. I abhor hunting and we think they have killed our fox."

Despite repeated attempts to contact Dartmoor hunt, no one was available for comment.

## MPs seek more state aid for exports

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, is coming under growing all-party pressure to boost state support for exports.

A group of MPs will meet him later this month to warn him that big British manufacturers risk being frozen out of lucrative overseas markets because of the government's failure to match levels of assistance offered by international competitors.

James Pawsey, the senior Conservative MP leading the six-strong delegation, spoke last night of a haemorrhage of jobs and work abroad unless the trade secretary acted. "We shall be asking Peter Lilley to level out the playing field so that British manufacturers are competing evenly with their overseas rivals. At

the moment, heavy industry is operating at a substantial disadvantage in trying to win business abroad."

The MPs are reflecting mounting concern among industrialists about the way the government is operating the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD). Ministers have ordered big increases in premiums paid by firms for state-run credit insurance, which safeguards companies against non-payment of politically risky long-term loans made to Third World governments to finance big projects, such as power stations and railways.

The ECGD is about £4 billion in the red because of a flood of defaults on contract payments over the last de-

cade, particularly from countries in Latin America. Insurance costs for British firms for contracts of more than two years have jumped to between three and five times the premiums paid by European and American firms.

For instance, the effective cost of insurance for contracts in South Africa is 8.3 per cent for British firms, 2.1 per cent for French, 3.5 per cent for German and 3 per cent for Italian. On a £100 million contract, that could mean the UK price being up to £6 million higher than its rivals.

Three Labour and three Tory MPs will make up the delegation to Mr Lilley. They all have factories owned by GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-

French joint venture, in their constituencies. The company is one of a number of big engineering and construction companies lobbying for more favourable treatment for British exporters.

GEC Alsthom recently bid for a multi-million-dollar railway contract in Venezuela. The bid was made through the company's French arm because of the more favourable financing package from Coface, the French national export credit agency.

Mr Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said that the danger was that UK-based multinationals might increasingly draw up credit packages with the help of foreign governments and then farm out work to local factories.

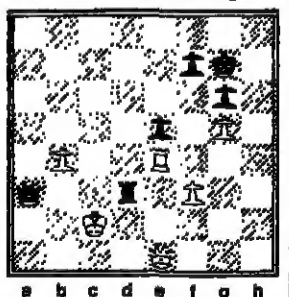
## Kasparov loses with white

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov the world chess champion, lost yesterday to Viswanathan Anand from India in the international tournament at Reggio Emilia in Italy.

Before his defeat Kasparov had not lost a game with the white pieces in a rated tournament for eight years.

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	c5	28 Nd4	Gc7
2 d4	d5	29 c4	Kg7
3 Nd2	c5	30 Rb4	Qe5
4 g4	Qxd5	31 g3	Qe1+
5 dxc5	Bxc5	32 Kd2	Rc8
6 Ng3	Nf6	33 Rf4	Qe5
7 Bc3	0-0	34 Rf4	Qe7
8 Qe2	Nd7	35 Qe3	as
9 Nd4	as	36 Rf4	Rd8
10 Nxc5	Qxc5	37 Rf4	Rd8
11 Bc3	Qc7	38 g4	as
12 Bc4	Bb7	39 Bb7	as
13 0-0-0	Nc7	40 Bb7	as
14 Bc5	Nd3+	41 Qe2	Qe6
15 Rxc3	Qc4	42 Qd3	Qf5
16 Nd4	as	43 Qd3	Qe7
17 Rb3	Qa2	44 Qd3	Qe7
18 Bxh6	Bg6	45 cxb4	Qe4+
19 Rb3	Qe5	46 Bb7	Qe2+
20 Bc4	Qxh6	47 Kc2	Qe3
21 N5	Qxh6	48 Bxh6	Qe3+
22 Rxc6	hxg6	49 Kc2	Qe3+
23 Rb3	Q5	50 Kc2	Qe3+
24 Rb4	Q5	51 Kc2	Qe3+
25 Qf3	Rc8	52 White resigns.	



The final position

## Surplus satellites will perfect air navigation

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA and America are to offer international airlines free use of their military navigation satellites. The move is seen within the industry as the most significant development in civil aviation since the introduction of the jet engine.

Eighty-five nations have agreed to take part in trials for the new navigation system, which will enable aircraft to navigate with pinpoint accuracy wherever they are in the world. By automatically positioning themselves, using at least three satellites, aircraft can be guided from space to within the last few metres of landing at the remotest airport. Eventually, it is expected that satellite navigation will do away with the ground-based navigational aids dotted along air routes that beam up signals to which aircraft lock on.

Small computers costing a few hundred pounds each

will gradually be fitted to civil aircraft to process the signals from the orbiting satellites. There are more than 20 satellites in orbit and this will increase to 48 by 1996.

The new system, known as FANS (future air navigation system) and developed by a committee of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, will be particularly useful to aircraft crossing the Atlantic, much of which is

out of reach of ground radars and often subject to unreliable radio communications. FANS has been made possible by the rapid development of satellite communications, similar to those used to relay live pictures from the Gulf direct to domestic television sets.

An international meeting is to be held next month when final details of the frequencies will be discussed. It

is hoped that many reserved for military use will be handed over to the civilian operators now that they are no longer needed for the Cold War.

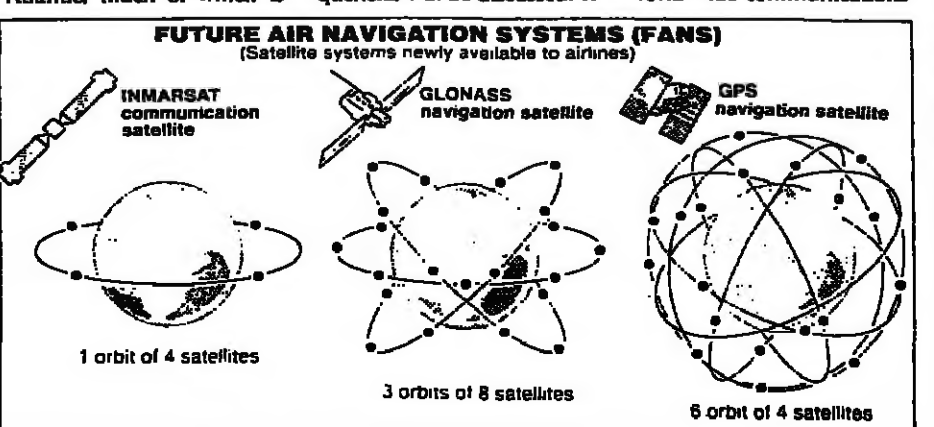
The Russian Glonass satellites and the American global positioning system (GPS) will be made available for at least ten years. They will be used in conjunction with four Inmarsat satellites providing world-wide communications

between pilots and air traffic controllers.

The introduction of in-flight telephones on some aircraft has enabled passengers to have better communications with the ground than pilots who rely on VHF radio. This too will be improved dramatically when FANS is used.

It will also enable aircraft to fly much closer together, especially across oceans and deserts where, with no direct radar cover, they must now remain at least five miles apart because they can slowly drift off course using current inertial navigation systems.

Trials will continue over the next two years before the system is gradually introduced. A full FANS system will run parallel with existing systems by 2000, and by 2010 it is expected that FANS will be the only system used for navigating, controlling and communicating with aircraft anywhere in the world.



## Leaders dispute summit outcome

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE dispute between John Major and Neil Kinnock over the outcome of the Maastricht summit continued yesterday with a letter from Mr Kinnock to the prime minister.

In it the Labour leader accuses Mr Major of being so anxious to get an "opt-out" from economic and monetary union for internal Conservative party reasons that he abdicated any control over the EMU timetable.

"That together with the way in which you surrendered the possibility of securing the location of the European central bank in Britain made your opt-out tactic a Pyrrhic 'game set and match'", Mr Kinnock says in the letter.

He also rejects Mr Major's assertion made last week that the Labour leader had gone back on a pledge to consult parliament about economic and monetary union, and further argues that the social chapter would not force part-time workers to pay national insurance contributions.

Ministers are unhappy about the "good press" Mr Kinnock received after the Commons debate on the summit just before Christmas. Last Friday, in an attempt to regain the initiative, the prime minister sought to raise the spectre of part-time workers losing pay.

In a letter to the Labour leader he said Mr Kinnock's support for the part-time working directive in the social chapter would oblige 1.75 million low-paid men and women to pay national insurance contributions for the first time.

In his reply yesterday, Mr Kinnock totally rejects that interpretation of the treaty. He says that its provisions will ensure that part-time workers are not treated in a different and discriminatory way from full-time workers in respect of social security entitlements.

## Two men quizzed on acid attack

Police investigating an acid attack on a 74-year-old widow at her home were yesterday interviewing two men.

Thames Valley police said a 22-year-old man and a 17-year-old youth, both local, were being questioned at Banbury police station, Oxfordshire.

Mrs Joan Cooper was still poorly but stable yesterday in hospital at Warwick after the incident last Friday when formic acid was thrown in her face and she was punched in the stomach at her Banbury home. Her attackers stole money and Christmas presents valued at £75.

Police said it was still too early to say whether Mrs Cooper's sight could be saved.

## Lifeboatmen save 1,188

Lifeboatmen saved 1,188 people from death at sea last year, according to provisional figures released by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution last night.

Although the number of people saved was 175 fewer than in 1990, lifeboat call-outs rose from 4,231 in 1990 to 4,407 last year. The country's 268 lifeboats were at sea for 6,800 hours and more than one mission in ten was in gales of force eight or more. More than 122,000 lives have been saved since the institution was founded in 1824.

## Attacks foiled

Three bomb attacks were foiled last night in Northern Ireland. Incendiary devices were found in two Belfast stores and at a furniture shop in Bangor, Co Down, police said. Shop owners were told to check property before closing for the night amid fears that other devices had been planted.

## CORRECTIONS

In an article published on December 26 it was stated that Mrs Diana Meyer, a sufferer from Alzheimer's, attended two day care centres in north London run by the Alzheimer's Disease Society. In fact, one of the centres is run by the social services department of the London Borough of Camden and the other is operated by Age Concern Camden.

The photograph used on page 2 yesterday showed Prince Harry and not Prince William as captioned.

## LONDON'S BIGGEST EVER BOAT SHOW EARLS COURT

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**CHILDREN FREE!**  
Two under 16's admitted free with one adult



## Educationist demands end to rhetoric on teaching

BY DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

ONE of the "three wise men" asked by the government to carry out a review of primary teaching in the 20,000 state schools in England and Wales has called for an end to "all the silly rhetoric" and insisted on his independence.

In a letter to educationists, Robin Alexander, professor of primary education at Leeds University, says: "One of the immediate tasks is to assess what academics and researchers like yourself really have to say about the pros and cons of particular approaches to curriculum, organisation and classroom practice in primary schools once all the silly rhetoric of the past few months is stripped away."

When Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, set up the enquiry last month, he made it clear that he wanted to see an end to the "playschool" approach of many primary schools and a return to more formal teaching, concentrating on particular subjects as required by the national curriculum. The three-man team of Professor Alexander, Jim Rose, one of

Her Majesty's chief inspectors of schools, and Chris Woodhead, chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, is due to report at the end of this month.

Mr Clarke asked Professor Alexander to join the team after his report into primary education in Leeds, in which he was critical of much of current primary school practice, which relies heavily on topic work and allows children to work at their own pace. Professor Alexander has let it be known privately that he is anxious not to be used by the government.

In his letter, a copy of which has been passed to *The Times*, Professor Alexander says: "In case you have the kinds of anxieties I myself felt when I was first approached about the matter, can I make one important point. I agreed to participate on the strict understanding that my independence would be guaranteed. The three of us would be participating as individuals rather than as representatives of particular constituencies [and], whatever we write, our paper will be published."

When approached by *The Times*, Professor Alexander said that he could not comment on any aspect of the enquiry. Neither Mr Rose nor Mr Woodhead was available for comment yesterday.

A national crusade for state education will be launched by Labour if it wins the election, Jack Straw, the party's chief education spokesman, says today in his new year message. He condemns the "pernicious neglect" under the Conservatives and promises an immediate boost to flagging morale in the education service.

The past year, he says, has seen cuts and change for change's sake. He criticises Mr Clarke on 10 points: the further erosion of teacher morale; parents paying even more for their children's education; the threat of further privatisation; the poor state of school buildings; the shortage of books and equipment; the ignoring of the demand for nursery education; political appointments to education bodies; constant changes to the curriculum and to testing; privatisation of school inspectors; and the effect of the poll tax on locally funded adult and further education.

## Killing of funeral pyre girl is denied

A GIRL aged 14 was dumped on a pile of tyres after being raped and strangled and the tyres were then set alight, Leeds magistrates were told yesterday when Anthony Hopkin, aged 20, appeared on a charge of murder.

Bob Marshall, for the prosecution, said that on December 20 Mr Hopkin took Sarah Furness, of Bramley, Leeds, to the Vello Tyres compound where he once worked.

The girl had died on a mattress from a caravan in the compound in which he had taken a number of girls for sexual intercourse. Before he died, Mr Marshall said, she had been subjected to forced sexual intercourse.

Graham Parkin, for the defence, successfully applied to the magistrates for reporting restrictions to be lifted and told them that Mr Hopkin had denied murdering the girl during nine police interviews.

Mr Marshall told the court that Mr Hopkin, also of Bramley, told detectives that he saw Sarah five days before Christmas and afterwards he visited a blues club in the city centre. But he was lying, Mr Marshall said.

"He said that he visited a club but this has been proved to be false by police. He has also denied that he had a fire in the back garden of his house the day after the blaze at Vello Tyres. This was obviously an attempt to dispose of clothing which could be linked to the offence," he said.

Mr Hopkin went to police on Christmas day to say that he saw Sarah alive on the previous Friday. Mr Marshall said: "He said he had gone to the police station because he had previously worked at Vello Tyres. It was quite extraordinary behaviour, especially at lunchtime on Christmas day."

Mr Parkin said Mr Hopkin got on a bus after leaving Sarah at about 8pm on December 20 and travelled to Roundhay Road. "We want to speak to an elderly man who was on that bus who may have seen my client," he said.

An application for bail was refused by David Loy, the stipendiary magistrate, and Mr Hopkin was remanded in custody until January 7.



Leading light: the glass engraver Laurence Whistler with an item lent by the Queen for an exhibition of his work opening tomorrow to mark his 80th birthday. The stand depicting the landscape around Windsor Castle will be among 53 exhibits at Sotheby's, London

## AA urges consistency in drink driving sentences

BY STEWART TENDLER AND PETER VICTOR

THE Automobile Association yesterday called for greater consistency in sentencing for motoring offences including the use of special courts and a new penalty framework.

Official figures from 43 forces in England and Wales on the number of drivers stopped and tested over the Christmas and new year period are expected to be announced tomorrow. Preliminary figures have shown that although the number of tests carried out has dropped significantly the number of drivers tested positively has remained almost the same.

The AA, which provides legal aid to some drivers, is analysing the cases it handles to see if there is any pattern. A spokesman said that there should be greater standardisation in penalties. Fine levels were often ineffective because they did not match the wealth of defendants.

One solution proposed would be a scale of fines based on the wealth of the driver and the severity of the offence.

Motoring offences could be removed from the work of the normal courts and passed to courts specialising in driving cases.

Two cases yesterday at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, central London, demonstrated the different treatment of drink driving offenders.

Rosin Cosgrave, aged 27, a Canadian tourist, was fined £600 and banned for two years after she admitted being almost three times over the legal limit. It was her first offence. In another case Desmond Gilroy, aged 43, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, an unemployed business consultant, who admitted his second offence and being more than twice the legal drink driving limit, was told by Pamela Long, the magistrate, that she was considering sending him to prison. He was given bail until next month for reports and legal representation.

In Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, Donald Price, aged 49, a former miner, was

banned from driving for a year, fined £50 and put on probation for two years providing he attends alcohol counselling sessions. He pleaded guilty to drink driving, reckless driving, failing to stop after an accident and failing to report an accident. A breath test showed he had drunk more than four times the legal limit.

Avon magistrates banned Martin Waller, aged 18, of Avon, for 12 months and fined him £250 on Monday after he admitted drink driving. In the same court Jason Webb, aged 20, from Bristol, admitted drink driving. He was fined £400 and given a 12-month ban after breath tests showed he was more than double the limit.

At Southampton magistrates' court on Friday last week Janey Campbell, aged 24, of Southampton, pleaded guilty to driving while more than three times over the legal limit, with no insurance and a fraudulent excise licence. She was fined £200 and banned from driving for 18 months.

## Treading into a uniform new year

BY JAMIE DETTMER

NEW year's day would hardly be complete without the traditional unveiling of new ministerial regulations. This year is no exception.

From today, a new minimum tread depth of at least 1.6mm on car tyres comes into effect. From tomorrow, householders will have to pay £9 more than in 1991 to apply for permission to extend their homes, and farmers will have to tell their local authority before erecting new agricultural buildings.

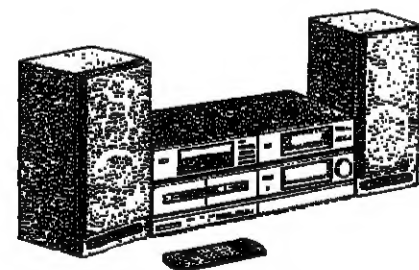
The new legal tread depth was agreed by European transport ministers in June 1989. Under EC Directive 89/459/EEC, "tyres will be required to have this much tread in the central three quarters of the tread area all the way round the tyre". Failure to observe the new regulation will incur "a level 4 fine": apparently, £1,000.

The Department of Environment's Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) Regulations 1991 increases planning application fees by 20

per cent. Planning authorities will be able to determine whether the siting, design and external appearance of new farm buildings or extensions are satisfactory.

Maybe European ministers can decide on harmonising the meaning of satisfactory and so spawn EC Directive 92/460/EEC, or Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) Regulations 1993.

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## BR wins consumer brickbat

BRITISH Rail is today named the first winner of the Captive Consumer award, for failing to compensate passengers inconvenienced by late trains. The award, which the Consumers' Association intends as an annual event, singles out monopoly or near-monopoly organisations that provide poor service. The banks were named as runners-up.

Derek Prentice, the association's assistant director, said: "There was a lot of competition for the award, but in the end it had to go to British Rail. Often, travellers receive no explanation or apology when things go wrong. To make matters worse, BR frequently attempts to stonewall passengers seeking compensation."

"We would like to see British Rail subject to a strong, independent regulator along the lines of Ofgas or Oflet."

A British Rail spokesman said that it would soon publish a passengers' charter. "We are well aware of concern over our conditions of carriage," he said.

## Keepers of royal parks face sack

BY DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

KEEPERS of Britain's most famous parks face dismissal next month as the government transfers the running of the Royal Parks to private firms.

On March 1 the maintenance of the eight Royal Parks in London will be taken over by contractors. In spite of strong public opposition, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has ordered the move to bring the parks in line with local authorities, which have been forced to contract out.

Mr Heseltine says the move will end the situation in which his department sets standards for the parks and employs the 340 staff who maintain them. The contract for Green park and St James's park has been won by Green-dale Ltd of Chorley, Lancashire, which says it will improve standards. Winners of contracts for the other parks will be named this month.

Barry Last, who is responsible for the flower gardens in Greenwhich park, said: "If I am offered a job by the contractor I will take it but I cannot help feeling that we are about to lose something very precious here. This place has a tradition of first-class horticulture. It is not just another municipal park."

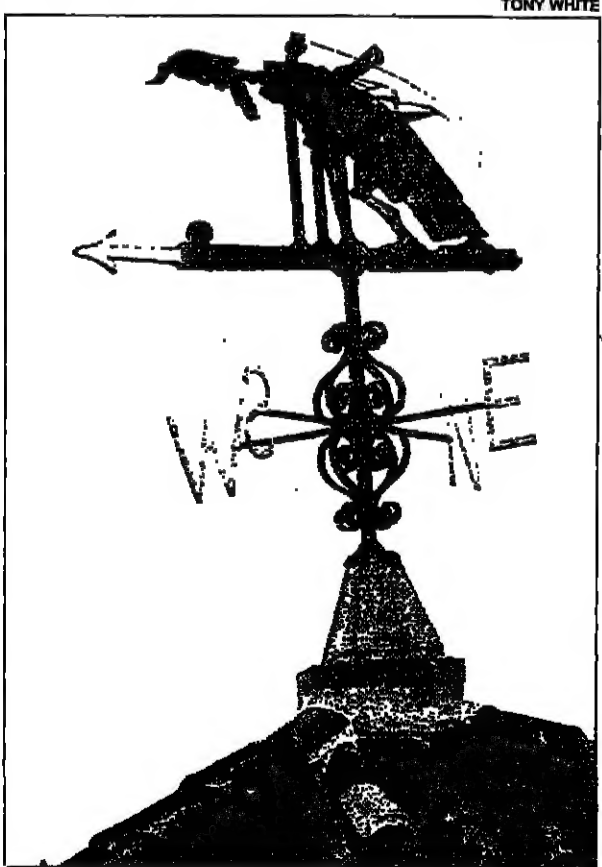
Mr Last lectures to horticultural societies and gardening enthusiasts regularly visit the park for guided tours by gardeners who are acknowledged experts. Mr Last and his 56 colleagues fear there will be no time for such activities once the maintenance contracts have been let. They will be concerned with deadlines for litter clearance and grass cutting.

Greenwhich park's apprentice gardeners have won gold medals at each of the last seven Chelsea flower shows. Mark Wasilewski, who is in charge of the park's nursery, grows standard geraniums and heliotropes not seen anywhere else. The park's collection of old roses is famous and its "jungle garden" is unique.

The nursery is to be privatised separately in July but so far there have been no bidders and there are fears it may close. With contractors moving in to all public parks, Mr Wasilewski is thinking of going to work in Europe.

Jim Buttress, the park superintendent, who will remain on the government payroll to oversee the contractors, said: "When the bottom line is profitability a contractor is not going to be able to do what we do. He will be looking to cut down the time spent on jobs and we risk losing some of our most experienced people because the contractors will be tempted to use cheaper school-leavers."

The Royal Parks' apprenticeship scheme, regarded as the best in the trade, is also at risk, as are the jobs of some of the disabled who have found work in the parks.



Bowled over: Father Time scything away 1991 on the grandstand at Lord's cricket ground yesterday on a weathervane looking the worst for wear after having been bent by the wind. After 65 years at the top he is coming down for repairs for the new season

## Priest attacks sins of omission in faith book

BY RONALD FAUX

ROMAN Catholicism has been undermined and misrepresented in a publication issued to Catholic schools in Liverpool and Leeds to explain the faith to young people. A Catholic priest has said.

Father Francis Marsden, of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Liverpool, has strongly criticised *Weaving the Web*, a three-volume work by Richard Lohan, a former priest, and Sister Mary McCutcheon, of Christ's College, Liverpool.

In a pamphlet published by Parents' Concern, Fr Marsden says that the work was imposed as the new diocesan curriculum without consultation among priests and parents.

The Christian content of *Weaving the Web* occupied 38 per cent, with the Catholic content an even smaller fraction of that, he says. His pamphlet contains 80 significant points of Catholicism that he says were omitted or unexplained in *Weaving the Web*.

The divinity of Christ was only hinted at, and the place of the Pope as successor to St Peter and visible head of Christ's church on earth was omitted, as was the immaculate conception, the communion of saints and the mystery of evil.

"To me it seemed like a nightmare: the little ones were to be led into a swamp of syncretism, a blanchmange of world religions all mixed together, without any claim at all for the

absolute truth of Catholicism." Fr Marsden writes in his pamphlet, *Weaving a Web of Confusion*.

The different religions end up, he says, like different brands of confectionery, inculcating a "pick 'n' mix" attitude unsuited to doctrinal teaching and the communication of faith between believers. Religious tolerance is confused with religious indifference.

"They have fallen into the trap of non-denominational Christianity in amalgam with the more humane side of Islam and Hinduism. References to sharia law, jihad, polygamy, female circumcision, the caste system, suttee, sacred cows or human sacrifice to the goddess Kali are conspicuous only by their absence."

A child reared on *Weaving the Web* would find it hard to understand why all world religions did not join together, he says. The tensions between Hindus and Muslims in India, Jews and Arabs in the Middle East and the suppression of Christianity in Saudi Arabia would be quite incomprehensible to them.

With such vast areas of basic Catholic doctrine missing, the work could not be a framework for Catholic education syllabuses, Fr Marsden writes. Pupils were likely to emerge with vaguely positive feelings to all religions, but no clear understanding of Catholic Christianity. "Like sheep without a shepherd, they may wander into New Age and occult practices," Fr Marsden says.



## Work of the allergy clinics blown away

PRIVATE allergy clinics which offer alternative treatments for conditions including asthma, hay fever and food intolerance provide an expensive service which is nearly always worthless and may even be dangerous, according to a report by a Royal College of Physicians committee.

Many clinics have made "false and misleading claims" and "serious harm may be caused by misdiagnosis or delays in treatment", the year-long investigation has concluded. "The public should be warned against costly methods of diagnosis and treatment which have not been validated."

Publication of the report, due on January 14, has been delayed but a draft copy has been obtained by *The Times*. Its findings are certain to inflame supporters of alternative medicine, who will see it as another assault by the medical establishment.

The report, produced by the college's committee on clinical immunology and allergy under the chairmanship of Professor Maurice Lessof, of Guy's hospital, says that only hypnosis and herbal

*Hypnosis and herbal remedies are the only alternative medicines not to be sniffed at by physicians, writes Jeremy Laurance*

remedies may have some role in the treatment of allergy. "None of the other areas of alternative therapy which have been appraised has been shown to be of any value."

The report considers and dismisses the techniques of homeopathy ("no evidence... other than a placebo effect"), acupuncture ("no scientific data"), clinical ecology, in which a wide range of environmental chemicals and foods are said to be responsible for an illness ("evidence almost totally lacking"), hair analysis ("no scientific data") and kinesiology ("failed to withstand a double-blind study").

There is evidence, however, that hypnosis "can affect physical reactivity of the skin, bronchi and gut". The report suggests that hypnosis may have a role in reducing anxiety associated with asthma. Although most herbal remedies have no effect on aller-

gies, traditional Chinese medicinal plants have been shown to provide "substantial benefit" to children with atopic eczema in one carefully designed trial, it says.

The report says that alternative practitioners fall into two groups: well-intentioned individuals who adhere to "pseudo-scientific theories with little or no basis in fact" and others who may be "seriously or even deliberately misleading." It warns that "alternative allergy can cause serious harm when patients are misdiagnosed, especially in those who are depressed."

Misunderstanding of the extent and causes of allergy and the means of treating it are driving people to the private clinics, the specialists believe.

The growth of private clinics over the past decade is acknowledged as reflecting dissatisfaction with the care available under the NHS and the failure of some doctors to "counsel allergy sufferers fully." The report adds that more research is required to develop better treatments and that there are "no grounds for complacency amongst conventional doctors".

## Margaret Tebbit airs good cause

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

MARGARET Tebbit, who has been confined to a wheelchair since she was crushed under rubble after the bomb explosion at the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984, is to make a radio appeal on behalf of a charity for disabled people.

She has lent her support to Access for Disabled People to Arts Today (Adapt) and will make the Week's Good Cause broadcast on Radio 4 on Sunday.

Adapt works to improve access to arts venues for people with disabilities, an issue that has concerned Mrs Tebbit since she tried to see the play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* in London and discovered wheelchair users were not catered for.

Mrs Tebbit said she had always enjoyed going out. "It used to be so easy — up the steps, through the revolving doors, down the sloping floor, and along the row to my seat."



Margaret Tebbit recording her appeal for Radio 4

## PEOPLE

### Connery strikes back at critics

The actor Sean Connery, voted "Scot of the Year" by BBC Radio Scotland listeners, yesterday rejected as "grossly unfair" criticism that he was a golf-mad tax exile.

The Edinburgh-born star was criticised by Labour and Tory MPs after appearing in a Scottish National Party broadcast. He said in America: "I have paid taxes since I left the country in 1974."

Cody, the bison which appeared in *Dances with Wolves*, has completed a second film and the Disney organisation wants him for a Wild West show.

The actor and film director John Cleese said on BBC Radio 5 that he used to think women came from "another planet" and that he was so shy he did not have a girlfriend until his mid-twenties.

Frank Bruno the boxer has scored a heavyweight panto-mime hit. His *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood* in Bristol, is on its way to making £2 million.

King Juan Carlos of Spain, who underwent surgery to repair a knee broken in a weekend skiing accident, is expected to remain in hospital for three more days.

The Rev Charles Kozminski of St Mary's Roman Catholic church in Ware, Massachusetts, says of "years" reported on the face of a figure of Virgin Mary at the church: "I'm not proclaiming it to be a miracle. The paint could have run."

Boris Yeltsin's request to America for children's toys and food and medicines has been answered. A plane that carried the yacht of a Russian group heading to enter the American's Christmas returned with 70 tons of US relief supplies.



Zubin Mehta has welcomed leaving New York after 13 years of leading the New York Philharmonic to increasingly critical reviews. "I'm free," he said. "I mean I'm free of that city."

Terry Anderson, the journalist held hostage in Lebanon for nearly seven years met Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, to thank him for negotiating his release.

## EC ruling catches shrimpers

London: A European Community directive that would change the taste of potted shrimps has angered British fishermen, who say that it threatens the financial future of the shellfish industry.

The ruling says that freshly caught shrimps must be boiled in fresh water, rather than the seawater in which they are traditionally boiled. Shrimpers will have to take gallons of fresh water to sea.

"If you boil shrimps in fresh water, they just don't taste the same and they don't keep that salty tang," a shrimper in Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, said.

### Pioneer calf

Philadelphia: An 18-month-old calf that survived for 388 days with an artificial heart has died of an infection at the Penn State Hershey Medical Centre. The electric heart was designed to serve as a permanent replacement for diseased human hearts. (AP)

### Teddy stolen

Bristol: Burglars stole an 87-year-old teddy bear after discovering a newspaper cutting in its owner's house in Bristol that said that a similar bear, made by Steiff in Germany, had sold for £40,000.

### Flagging sales

Chicago: Hammer-and-sickle flags and atlases of the old Soviet Union have become collectors' items in the United States, and suppliers report a heavy demand for revised flags and maps. (AP)

### Training run

Gloucester: Firemen had to be called to a fire service training college in Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, after flames and smoke were spotted in a garage.

## Watched turn into watchers

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOVIET spy satellites over South Africa may soon be switching channels to provide the subjects of their surveillance with episodes of *Darling Buds of May*, bush telephones, and electronic banking.

The rent-a-sputnik project was conceived during an Antarctic rescue mission last year, when South African officials helped to evacuate Soviet scientists from a research ship trapped by ice floes. During the operation, Boris Cherkov, the director general of Intersputnik, was introduced to Ian McLean, chief executive of Wesgro, the Western Cape economic growth organisation. Dr Cherkov was intrigued by a suggestion that Moscow might allow Pretoria to use satellites no longer required for military purposes, and promptly invited Mr McLean to submit detailed proposals.

"The upshot is that we are setting up a system here to gain access to the satellites," Mr McLean said. "The benefits to the whole of southern Africa would be

enormous. Presently, the cost of providing telephone and television services to remote rural areas is prohibitive. With the Russian satellites, it would be possible, for example, for a company in Swaziland to communicate directly with a travelling salesman in the Botswana bush, and for everyone with television sets to watch British programmes.

"Somebody once said that the greatest civilising influence in the Third World is a telephone in every hut. If you get a phone in, you can get in education, banking, health awareness programmes and so on."

Due to sanctions, the only satellites directly above South Africa are Soviet ones that observed Pretoria's military campaigns in Angola and Namibia. The American news channel CNN already uses Soviet satellites, and African TV News in Johannesburg, which beams local news throughout southern Africa, has signed an agreement with Intersputnik.

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## Macmillan haunted by spectre of a united Europe dominated by de Gaulle

## French seen as biggest power rivals

By BILL FROST

**HAROLD** Macmillan's attempt to join the Common Market in 1961 was dictated by cabinet fears that a united Europe under French leadership would eventually wield more international power than Britain.

The market was also perceived as an economic threat to Britain. Macmillan told his ministers: "If we stand aloof, we shall find ourselves in a position of growing weakness. Europe under France could well wield more power than the UK both with the Americans and some Commonwealth countries. It would be a threat to the political position of Britain."

Then, as now, a Tory prime minister was to find himself under attack from his backbenchers over Europe and the erosion of British sovereignty. In a foreshadowing of Maastricht, he was also to face criticism from Common Market countries that the commitment to participate was at best lukewarm, at worst self-serving.

Macmillan regarded France as the main obstacle to British membership, although acknowledging that pressure from his backbenchers and Commonwealth countries would also be hurdles. "General de Gaulle has not wished us to join. He wants to regain leadership of the market," Macmillan told his cabinet. But Britain had an historic mission: "Europe must be bound within the wider Atlantic community with the United Kingdom as a bridge between the Common Market and America."

In part, the British government's agenda on Europe was dictated in 1961 by the United States. The cabinet papers show that President Kennedy was concerned that France had failed to "take her full share of responsibility in Nato" and was not contributing her nuclear weapons to the Western deterrent as a whole. Macmillan asked the new president to put pressure on de Gaulle so that the UK would be allowed to join a wider political and economic association. "France must be

## COMMON MARKET

told she has to concur with these conditions if she is to take her rightful place with the United States and Britain as one of the pillars of the Western alliance," Macmillan said.

The prime minister told his cabinet that Kennedy's talks with the general in Paris had made little progress. "On the question of whether the UK should join the Common Market, de Gaulle told Mr Kennedy of his grave doubts over Commonwealth trading links and the political difficulties Britain would face in acceding to the Treaty of Rome," Macmillan said.

Kennedy told the prime minister: "The general has no wish whatsoever to see the United Kingdom join the Common Market."

Negotiations continued, despite de Gaulle's none too private opposition to the British wish for membership and, in France's view, eventual primacy. But Macmillan was fighting on a number of fronts: backbench opposition to membership was an embarrassment, public reaction was equivocal and the Commonwealth states feared the loss of a vital market.

Cabinet ministers were dispatched to mollify Commonwealth heads of government. The papers show that their efforts failed, particularly in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Black Africa was antagonistic towards the market's neo-colonial character.

Thirty Tory MPs signed a motion deploring any material derogation of sovereignty. Ministers in cabinet acknowledged that admission to the market would inevitably lead to such erosion. However, Macmillan told his cabinet: "On the balance of advantage it is in our interest to join, but only on terms which are politically and economically tolerable to us."

In July 1961, the prime minister announced that he hoped to have an early meeting with de Gaulle "to clear the air".

Leading article, page 11



Sixties' men: Anthony Wedgwood Benn (Viscount Stansgate), left, arriving at Westminster on May 8, 1961, to try to take his seat as MP; top, Kennedy and Macmillan at their 1961 Bermuda meeting and, above, de Gaulle addressing the French nation



## Voucher system hid race bias

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

**MEASURES** to control Commonwealth immigration announced in November 1961 reflected private government fears that the black community in Britain was incapable of assimilation, despite public assurances that the controls were not intended to be discriminatory.

Viscount Kilmer, then Lord Chancellor, reported to his cabinet colleagues in May that uncontrolled immigration was putting a severe strain on housing and that parliamentary and public concern about the social consequences were growing. He

said that 32,000 black immigrants had arrived in the first four months of 1961 and the total for the year might be 150,000 or more. Unless action was taken, Britain might be "confronted in the space of a few years with a colour problem approaching that of the United States", especially as "the quality of the immigrants appears to be deteriorating".

Health checks were rejected by the Committee on Commonwealth Migrants as a means of control in favour of a voucher system, requiring most immigrants to produce proof of employment or of skills in demand.

R.A. Butler, then home secretary, acknowledged in a cabinet memorandum of October 6 that control of Commonwealth immigration could not be justified on grounds of employment, health or public order, and would represent a departure from the principle that British subjects were free to enter and stay in the United Kingdom. Ostensibly, the voucher scheme related solely to employment, but in practice "its aim is primarily social and its restrictive effect is intended to, and would in fact, operate on coloured people almost exclusively".

The announcement of the measures was delayed until the autumn to prevent disruption of negotiations over the future of the West Indies. But the window dressing did not convince Sir Granville Adams, prime minister of the Federation of the West Indies, who wrote to Macmillan on November 17 comparing the new measures to apartheid. "It is inconceivable that West Indians, who form less than one half per cent of the population of Great Britain, can constitute any threat to Britain's economy or health. There has been no evidence to indicate that West Indians are less law-abiding or moral than the people of Britain."

## Ministers' hostility shown

THE cabinet showed implacable hostility towards Anthony Wedgwood Benn's attempt to renounce his peerage and take up a seat in the Commons. Criticism from a senior minister that the government could be regarded as showing "a distinct lack of sympathy to Mr Benn" was disregarded.

Having doubled his majority in the Bristol South-East by-election in May 1961, Mr Benn was banned from the Commons because he had succeeded to the title of Viscount Stansgate on his father's death the previous year. The cabinet was deter-

mined to deny him the opportunity of addressing MPs from the bar of the House and equally opposed to the introduction of legislation allowing the renunciation of peerages.

After Mr Benn announced his intention to take up his seat, ministers decided to ban him from the Commons. The cabinet was told that government backbenchers would find it unacceptable if he was permitted to address them from the bar of the house. The principal door-keeper told

Mr Benn as he arrived at the Commons that force would be used if necessary to keep him out. Eventually, he was permitted to listen to a debate on his predicament from the public gallery.

Correspondence disclosed under the 30-year rule shows the government's unwillingness to allow Mr Benn to represent his constituents during his period in limbo. A memorandum reads: "Would you care to send round a note that Stansgate should have no more service from ministries than any other political candidate (and this, I think, is nil)?"

## War was option on wall

Britain was prepared to go to war in response to the building of the Berlin Wall in August 1961 to protect security and freedom of access.

The government and its allies made clear their determination to maintain the freedom of West Berlin "at the risk of war if necessary". The comments came in memoranda of defence chiefs.

The paper said that the countries' "essential requirements" were to maintain the presence and security of their forces in West Berlin, the freedom and viability of the city and physical access to it. The cabinet's view, however, remains confidential.

## Pressure on Sunday laws

Sunday trading was a political hot potato 30 years before the current rush by supermarkets to open seven days a week, according to the cabinet papers.

The then home secretary, R.A. Butler, wanted to modernise Sunday observance laws but after warnings that interference with the British Sunday could prove "a grave political embarrassment" in the run-up to the next general election, the cabinet agreed to take no immediate action.

## Kuwait aid

British troops were sent to Kuwait in 1961 to deter Iraqi aggression, a decision driven partly by oil interests. They were withdrawn when the threat failed to materialise.

## Penny wise

If Britain had gone decimal in 1961 when the government first seriously considered it, the pound would have become worth 10 shillings after fears that a bigger change in the value of a penny would cause calculation problems for the public and shopkeepers.

## Breathe easy

Compulsory alcohol tests for suspected drunken drivers were considered but rejected by the government in 1961.

## UK accused of death crash

IN SEPTEMBER 1961, the government was accused of involvement in a plot to kill Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN secretary-general who died in a plane crash as he tried to negotiate an end to civil war in the Congo.

India and a number of Commonwealth governments suggested that the crash had been the work of saboteurs, the papers show. Their case was strengthened by the sole survivor, an American security guard, who spoke of an explosion shortly before the aircraft went down at Ndola in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia.

Two days after the crash,

## HAMMARSKJÖLD

Edward Heath, who was Lord Privy Seal at the time, told the cabinet that, in view of the accusation that the United Kingdom was in some way responsible for Hammarskjöld's death, every effort should be made to ensure that the crash enquiry established the facts.

Macmillan sent a British accident investigator to Northern Rhodesia "to protect our own interests". He also urged the UN to send a team. Macmillan feared, however, that Britain's accusations had already returned a

guilty verdict. Hammarskjöld had been flying to meet Moise Tshombe, leader of the breakaway Katanga province, who escaped to Northern Rhodesia as UN forces mounted a bloody action to force Katanga to rejoin the Congo. The West had been highly critical of the action, while Third World countries offered support.

As a means of defusing the crisis, Mr Heath suggested that the government should make "an authoritative statement of policy", emphasising Britain's support for United Nations intervention in the Congo and achieving an early ceasefire.



Death of a hero: Dag Hammarskjöld and the wreckage of the aircraft

## Secret war waged on protesters

**HAROLD** Macmillan's government conducted a secret war against the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament during the autumn of 1961. R.A. Butler, the home secretary, told the cabinet that evidence should be obtained against the movement's organisers showing "a definite intention to commit breaches of the law".

Permission for a mass rally in Trafalgar Square was denied at the cost of a cabinet split. Some ministers told Butler of their "misgivings on the grounds that refusal would amount to an interference with the traditional rights of freedom of speech and assembly". The dissent-

## CND

ers also pointed out that no organisation had been denied use of the square since 1916, when an anti-war group was told that its members' safety could not be guaranteed.

Butler carried the day, instructing the minister of works to refuse CND's application for use of the square. The Attorney-general was also invited to gather evidence which could be used as a justification for denying future applications.

The demonstration went ahead, with an estimated 20,000 CND supporters in

the square. Hundreds of arrests were made.

The size of the demonstration convinced the government that further action was necessary to curb CND. At a cabinet meeting in advance of protests planned at American air force bases, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, the Attorney-general, told ministers that the homes of "ring-leaders" were to be raided. The bases where nuclear weapons were stored were prohibited places under the Official Secrets Act, he said.

Searches would be made the day before the protests at the homes of CND members, he said. "Evidence might be-

come available which would warrant the immediate arrest of some of its main organisers on charges of conspiracy."

Should the protest go ahead, the cabinet was told, RAF Regiment personnel would be available in force. Julian Amery, the secretary of state for air, said if any of the demonstrators gained access to an airfield "forceful action - including the use of fire-hoses and police dogs - will be taken."

At the same time, the government was also planning a publicity campaign aimed at reassuring the public over "the health hazards arising from fall out".



Welcome in the New Year with one of our ten famous smiles. Available in shops and Post Offices everywhere.



# Flying doctors meet turbulence en route to trouble spots



Eye of the storm: Bernard Kouchner, once a leading figure in Médecins sans Frontières, entering an ambulance in Beirut

WHEN a handful of idealistic young French doctors set up Médecins sans Frontières 20 years ago, their aim was to provide medical relief in disaster zones "where nobody else will go". The organisation's ethos was to be interference in the name of humanity: never wait to be invited, never be intimidated, never bother about political considerations.

If that meant collisions with authority, or even with other aid agencies, the founders of Médecins sans Frontières — some veterans of the 1968 student upheavals, others influenced by prevailing sympathies for the Third World — believed the end justified the means. Volunteers had to be ready to break down any official door that came between them and the innocent victims of civil war, government repression

## Philip Jacobson in Paris charts the progress of Médecins sans Frontières, which can set up a big relief operation within 72 hours of an alert

and natural calamities. Xavier Emmanuelli, one of the founders, recalls: "The idea was to put our hospitals where they were needed." Like several colleagues, he had first worked in disaster relief in Biafra in the late 1960s. Two decades later, the charity's campaign honours read like a roll-call of the world's regions of greatest suffering: Somalia, Ethiopia, the Kurdish region, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Beirut — always in the front line, often in political trouble (the Ethiopian government eventually threw them out for refusing to toe the official line).

From the days when they chartered creaking Dakotas without enough money in the bank, Médecins sans Frontières now has an annual budget of more than £50 million and annual receipts of well over £20 million, more than half donated by the public, most of the rest through EC grants. Controlled from a Paris office near Place de la République, skilled and experienced teams — there are about a thousand doctors, nurses and paramedics on the books — can get a big relief operation up and running within 72 hours of an alert anywhere in the world. The last time I encountered

the charity was in Jordan, shortly before the Gulf war, when a vast influx of refugees from Iraq threatened to overwhelm the authorities. Working flat out and cheerfully disregarding the local bureaucracy, the tough volunteers — who sometimes appear to have been selected from central casting, so right do they look for the part — soon had two camps in action and ended up co-ordinating all EC operations. There, as elsewhere, the instinctive swagger, arrogance even, of the organisation's personnel and the mess they sometimes leave in their wake raised hackles among other relief teams shunning the limelight.

Médecins sans Frontières also has critics within France, among them Bernard Kouchner, who was present at its creation but later founded the rival Médecins du

## Minsk pact leaves fate of army open

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Minsk agreement on nuclear weapons may have been concluded partly in an attempt to allay Western concerns about control of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons, but also to answer objections from Ukraine and Kazakhstan about the earlier agreement and from the non-nuclear republics which had no say in it.

The agreement defines what is meant by strategic forces — a very broad list including not just the forces and their weapons in the strict sense, but all support and related services — and notes that separate lists of precisely who and what comes under the united strategic command will be prepared for each commonwealth member. This could allow Ukraine to alter the definition and retain more forces for its own army.

The agreement adds to the pledge to observe existing international agreements by stating that all commonwealth members will abide by agreements signed by the former Soviet Union, and will hold talks with each other and with foreign states to negotiate continuing guarantees and procedures for arms reductions.

The Russian president's control of the nuclear button is reaffirmed, but under the new agreement he must not only "agree" the use of nuclear weapons with the three other "nuclear republics", but also consult all other commonwealth members. At the press conference after Monday's meeting, President Yeltsin said the four nuclear republics would shortly finalise, with the interim commonwealth commander, Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, arrangements for a "nuclear hotline".

The agreement also sets a date for Ukraine to become

fully non-nuclear. Tactical nuclear weapons are to be removed or destroyed by July 1 this year, while strategic nuclear weapons will be destroyed or dismantled by the end of 1994. Until that time, the republic's nuclear weapons will be under the "control of the united strategic forces command". No such provision was set out for Kazakhstan, which signed both nuclear agreements but has not yet defined whether it wants to be a nuclear state.

The agreement was signed by all 11 republics, but the leaders of Azerbaijan and Moldova stipulated that they would not finance any related expenditure. The text of the agreement signed on conventional weapons, which was released yesterday, makes clear just how extensive were objections to maintaining a single command over conventional forces. But agreement seems to have been just enough to delay Marshal Shaposhnikov's threatened resignation.

The four-paragraph document starts by affirming the right of each commonwealth member to form its own armed forces. Point two sets a two-month period for working out how the conventional forces will be organised and commanded. The other two points relate only to the appointment and interim arrangements for guarding the commonwealth's borders.

Although the Minsk meeting produced a total of 15 agreed documents, nine signed by heads of state and six by heads of government, most did not take the commonwealth any further forward or were so complex that they are likely to founder.

EC recognition, page 1  
Diary, page 10  
Mary Dejevsky, page 10  
Letters, page 11

## Marshal shares nuclear burden

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARSHAL Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the last Soviet defence minister, is one of the two men whose finger is now on the Soviet nuclear button. The other man authorised to launch an attack is President Yeltsin, who, according to the Alma Ata agreement, has the final say over all Soviet nuclear weapons with the agreement of the leaders



Shaposhnikov: won the support of Yeltsin

of the three other nuclear republics. At Minsk it was also decided that he must consult the other seven republics as well.

Marshal Shaposhnikov retains a key part of the nuclear code however — a responsibility he had when a unified Soviet Union existed. A nimble figure who owes his position to his decisive support for President Yeltsin during the abortive coup in August, he remains at his post because the 11 republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States have all promised

to retain single control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

His hopes of becoming the military commander-in-chief of the new commonwealth were dashed, however, by the decision of three republics at the Minsk summit to raise armies of their own, and on Monday he threatened to resign. He was persuaded to stay on and has had his mandate extended for two months.

Marshal Shaposhnikov was plucked from relative obscurity as chief of the Soviet air force to become defence minister as a reward for his public disavowal of the coup. He had been the loyal adviser of President Gorbachev, but quickly won Mr Yeltsin's confidence and that of the other republican leaders.

But he fell out with General Vladimir Lobov, the former chief of staff, and opposed his willingness to countenance the formation of independent armies by the separate republics. While General Lobov was in London, Marshal Shaposhnikov persuaded Mr Gorbachev, in one of his final presidential acts, to dismiss General Lobov.

## Georgia noose choking president

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN TBILISI

GEORGIA'S warlords attempting to oust Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the embattled president, yesterday cemented a coalition of the republic's paramilitary groups. An attack on government positions is expected within 24 hours.

Between 500 and 600 men from the Mhedroni Society, Georgia's most powerful military faction, arrived here late on Monday night and early yesterday to join the forces ranged against President Gamsakhurdia. The men encamped at the city's science institute carrying missiles and machine-guns. A further 150 men were reported to have moved into positions in the former Lenin Square on the opposite side of President Gamsakhurdia's parliament fortress.

Za Za Venkhvadze, Mhedroni's deputy leader, said yesterday that an opposition war council made up of the leaders of four paramilitary groups plus Tengiz Sigua, the former prime minister, would decide the time and strategy for an assault on government positions. Mr Venkhvadze said the priority for the opposition forces was to throw a noose around parliament, trapping Mr Gamsakhurdia's snipers in neighbouring buildings, rather than launch an immediate storming of parliament.

Members of the Afghanistan veterans' association, the republic's private armed faction, were expected to arrive late last night and to encamp at the Mhedroni headquarters. The Afghan veterans' support for the rebels was sealed after the detention of their leader, Nodar Gamsakhurdia, by President Gamsakhurdia on Sunday.

Apart from occasional sniper fire and brief exchanges between government and opposition forces, the new groups moved yesterday into positions on the streets of Tbilisi. Armoured personnel carriers with fighters perched on top of them, sped through the tree-lined avenues to the front line along Rustaveli Avenue.

In front of the city's main telegraph office, near the rebel headquarters, troops were setting up two 122mm Howitzers within sight of the parliament 700 yards away. Apart from the Howitzers, the coalition rebels now enjoy a significant advantage in firepower and manpower over the president.

High on the EC's agenda are the conflict in Yugoslavia and the aftermath of the breakup of the Soviet Union.



Ready for action: an opposition supporter stops briefly in front of a blazing building in Tbilisi before the big battle that seems inevitable after both sides yesterday brought up tanks and artillery pieces

## Portugal poised to take over EC presidency despite building snag

BY MARTHA DE LA CAL IN LISBON AND HARRY DEBELIUS

FAR behind schedule and plagued with enormous cost over-runs, the cultural centre in the historic Lisbon suburb of Belem which Portugal will use for its presidency of the EC starting today, has been heavily criticised even by President Soares.

In spite of the time lag, Fernando Balsinha, the foreign ministry spokesman, is confident. "Everything is ready in both logistic and diplomatic terms," he said. "Anyway, the first meetings are only scheduled for January 14."

High on the EC's agenda are the conflict in Yugoslavia and the aftermath of the breakup of the Soviet Union.

"What we have done is to set up work groups headed by our most competent diplomats specialised in those areas," Senhor Balsinha said. "They will keep on top of the situation and collect all information available from the UN, friendly nations, international organisations and others in order to face whatever crisis comes."

"We must deal with the problem of aid for the ex-Soviet Union to see that they get what is necessary to survive this winter."

Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, and his government have voiced confidence and optimism, but doubts have been expressed

about Portugal's ability to cope because of its old-fashioned communications.

Portugal has good people with experience in Brussels, but there are not enough of them. Although Lisbon continues to attract foreign investment, the country has many problems to overcome — archaic agriculture, insufficient roads and railways, an ailing textile industry, 12 per cent inflation, and an unwieldy civil service — before contending with the broader problems of a busy EC presidency.

Portugal has shared many of England's positions within the EC, including that on federalism. Senhor Cavaco

Silva has said: "We should not speak of federation or confederation because we cannot say what the final model of Europe will be." He also believes that European security forces should be closely linked to Nato.

The prime minister, who studied at York University, believes in maintaining the close ties with Britain that go back for centuries. In the 12th century English crusaders helped the Portuguese kings to drive out the Moors. John of Gaunt's daughter, Philippa of Lancaster, married King John I of Portugal and wielded great influence in the Portuguese court in the later 14th and early 15th centuries.

Senhor Cavaco Silva, aged 52, is known as a hard worker and a no-nonsense political leader who enjoys giving orders, a trait which his political opponents say may get him into trouble in the EC. They see João de Deus Pinheiro, his foreign minister, on whom he must rely in the delicate task of leading the Community, as more of a yes-man than a planner.

The Portuguese prime minister, like other inhabitants of the Algarve, his native southern region, is a plain talker. He does not make concessions easily. Lean, sunburnt, abstemious, and a non-smoker, he has enjoyed the support of Portuguese workers almost from the moment he became finance minister under Francisco Sá Carneiro, the centrist Democratic Alliance prime minister, in 1979.

At the same time he is not disliked by businessmen, who sense the grasp of economics which he acquired at York in the early 1970s. To restore Portugal's economy, which once vied with that of Greece as the poorest in the EC, he removed restrictions on the movement of capital, a widely approved move.

Leading article, page 11

## Vance takes gloomy view

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREYISAN IN BELGRADE

WITH fighting continuing across Croatia and Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, accusing both sides of violating the war's innumerable ceasefires, the chances of a United Nations peacekeeping force coming to Yugoslavia seemed yesterday to be as remote as ever.

Looking grimly determined after two hours of talks with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, Mr Vance said: "Until we have a durable ceasefire we cannot go forward with the peacekeeping operation." On his fifth mission to Yugoslavia, he added gravely that fighting was "even more severe than last time I was here."

Even if a durable ceasefire comes into effect, there is still no agreement on where UN troops should be stationed. Serbia argues they should be on the present front line, but Croatia rejects this as consolidating Serbian war gains and wants the troops placed along its old frontiers.

"If we are not able to free these regions, then we shall do it by war," Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, said yesterday. "Croatia will have sufficient strength to liberate them by arms and there can be no doubting that."

Dr Tudjman said Croatia would play no part in any future confederal Yugoslavia. There would be only economic links with "present enemies". His uncompromising stance exactly mirrors that of



Mr Milosevic, who is still determined that some form of Yugoslav successor state will be born from the ashes of the old.

Politicians of the opposing sides have agreed to declare the hospital stronghold of Osijek as the centre of a safe zone starting at midnight on Friday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday.

## Mother Teresa improves

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MOTHER Teresa, now recovering from coronary problems in California, was ignoring doctors' instructions to slow down before she fell ill on a trip to Mexico, sisters of her order said yesterday.

Mother Teresa, aged 81, who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor of Calcutta — where prayers were being said for her last night — was said by a doctor at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, California, to be seriously ill but making steady progress. She may leave hospital in about a week.

Mother Teresa was on a world tour of missions, and while in Tijuana, Mexico, last week she suffered pneumonia and was taken to La Jolla for further treatment. She had surgery to unclog arteries on Sunday.

## Injured walker survived on prunes

FROM RICHARD LONG IN WELLINGTON

RAINWATER and a handful of prunes sustained Amanda Glazier, a Welsh walker aged 26, after she became lost in the New Zealand bush. Speaking after her ten-day ordeal in a mountain range north of Wellington, she thanked the four teenage New Zealand walkers who found her weak, starving and wet.

"I owe them my life. I suppose, really, because at that point the weather turned really bad," she said. "The rivers were rising and if I had not met them I would have had to spend another night or two nights in the bush."

Sporting scratches and grazes, she said yesterday that her ordeal began after she fell down a steep rock-face and was knocked unconscious three days into a planned four-day walk. After regaining consciousness she discovered that her ankles



Survivor and friend: Amanda Glazier with a family pet before leaving for New Zealand on the trip that was to become a mountain ordeal

were sprained and her backpack was missing.

Her first thought was that help was unlikely to reach her since she had changed her route. She spent seven days trying to find her way

back to the nearest mountain hut. Rainwater and the prunes she found in a rubbish bin provided her only sustenance, and she was drenched by unseasonable weather. "I was drinking out

of puddles on the ridge. I was very weak," she said.

Eventually she was found by the four walkers, nursed at a hut until she regained her strength, then helped back to civilisation.



# Retiring UN chief seeks peace till last

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

TRUE to the tenacity which marked his decade in office, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar spent his last day as secretary-general of the United Nations yesterday in negotiations that were expected to lead to the end of the civil war in El Salvador.

"There is real enthusiasm on all sides for results," Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said, in a break from all-night talks at the UN headquarters only hours before he was due to hand over his job to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian diplomat and politician. A breakthrough in the El Salvador talks, attended by President Cristiani and the leaders of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front, would signal the end of one of Latin Amer-

ica's bloodiest civil conflicts and also mark a final achievement for the soft-spoken Peruvian diplomat. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, aged 71, has notched up a string of successes in recent years, winning the admiration of member states, many of which had been sceptical about his abilities when he was appointed in a compromise vote in 1981. His mediation has won freedom for hostages in Lebanon, and helped wind down wars in Cambodia, Afghanistan and between Iran and Iraq. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's guidance also helped secure Namibia's independence.

The New York Times said in a laudatory editorial: "The United Nations has reason to thank the [man] who was almost accidentally chosen as secretary-general," adding that Dr Boutros Ghali would "stand taller because a quiet Peruvian left a larger legacy than anyone, including his capricious masters on the security council, expected."

## Nuclear ban for Koreans

South North and South Korea initiated a draft agreement yesterday on a pact banning nuclear weapons from the divided peninsula, a big step towards ending the long dispute over the North's suspected nuclear development programme.

After eight hours of talks in Panmunjom, delegates agreed to make the peninsula nuclear free. "The accord will help establish a permanent peace and stability on the peninsula and pave the way for new relations of co-operation between the South and North," a spokesman said.

In another move intended to reduce tensions, North Korea is to set up free economic zones in a northeast province where foreign investors will get preferential treatment for joint ventures. South Korean businessmen have welcomed the move as a step towards expanding economic relations between the Koreans.

The North, isolated by the disintegration of the communist bloc and with its economy faltering, is being forced to move towards greater openness.

Under the nuclear agreement, both countries have agreed not to manufacture, possess, deploy or use nuclear weapons and will use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes. (Reuters)

## Kaunda to go

Lesaka: After his recent poll defeat, Kenneth Kaunda, aged 67, Zambia's former president, is to step down as leader of the United International Independence party, quit politics and devote himself to world peace. (Reuters)

## Somali clashes

Mogadishu: Fighting between clans seeking control of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, continued yesterday, but another clash in the northern Red Sea port of Berbera appeared to have ended, sources here said. (AP)

## Author ill

Riccione, Italy: Umberto Eco, aged 59, the Italian writer, is in hospital after being taken ill. A cardiologist said it was too soon for a diagnosis. Mr Eco was undergoing tests and should be released soon, he said. (AP)

## Old guard goes

Taipei: Taiwan's last 64 ageing MPs, frozen in office since they followed Chiang Kai-shek to the island after the Chinese civil war, have retired from parliament amid taunts and jeers from opposition deputies. (Reuters)

## Murder link

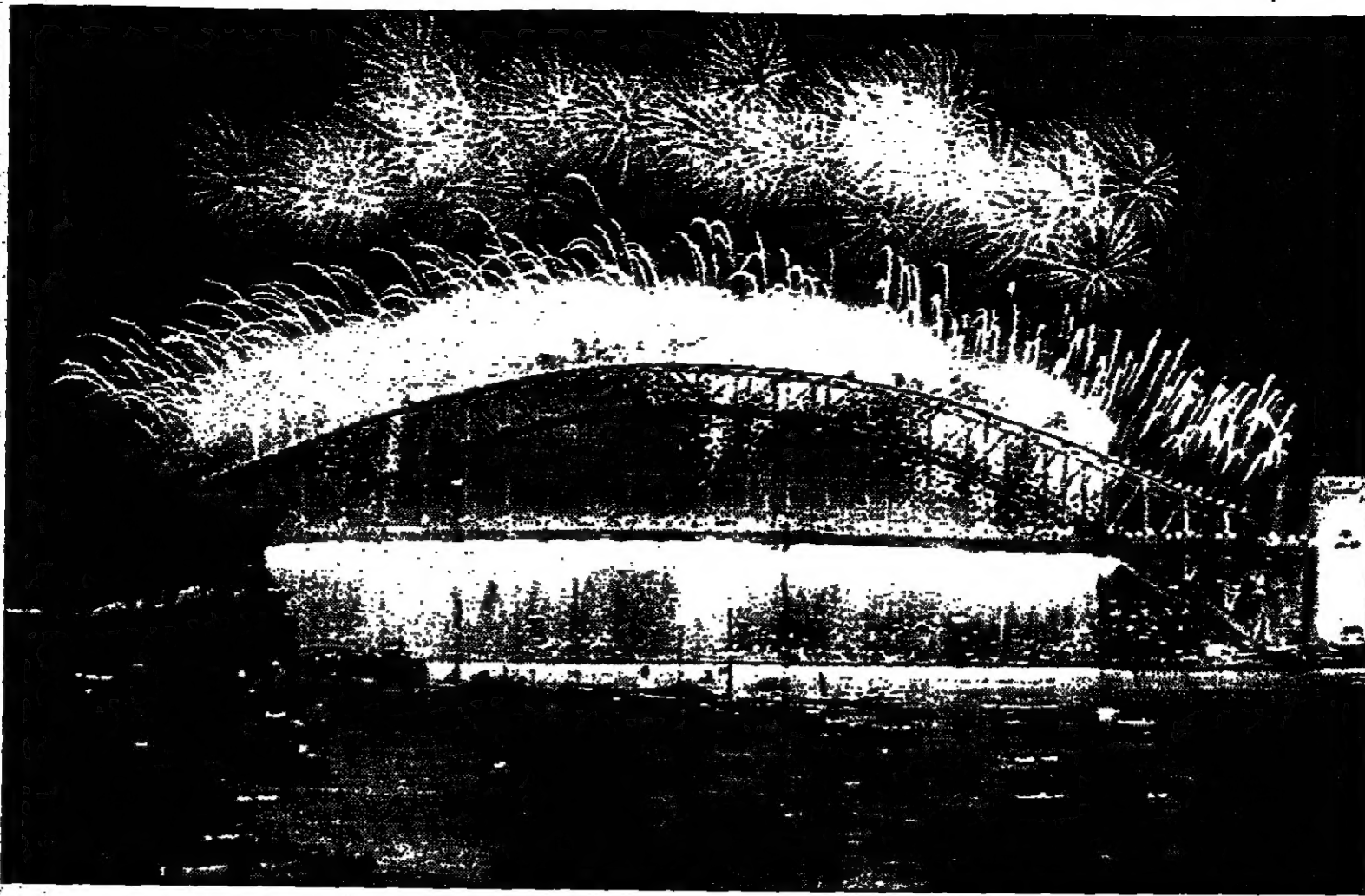
Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian police have disclosed links between Malaysians and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who are alleged to have killed Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister of India. (AFP)

## Briton jailed

Bangkok: A Bangkok court has jailed Dan Matthews, aged 27, a British jeweller, and Rudolf Krops, aged 39, a Swiss, for four years for using forged \$100 bills to buy gold bracelets, the Bangkok Post reported. (AFP)

## Whale study

Abu Dhabi: The body of a 33ft whale weighing four tons, which died when it collided with a French destroyer in the Gulf of Oman, has been winched on to a quay here and taken to a local university for study. (Reuters)



Dazzling welcome: Sydney's brilliant fireworks display for New Year's eve was watched by President Bush with Paul Keating, Australia's new prime minister, at the beginning of the president's visit to Australia (Robert Cockburn writes from Sydney). Mr Bush's first Asia-Pacific tour since the end of the Cold War —

which will take in Japan, Singapore and South Korea — has changed from a good-will mission to a reassessment of America's geopolitical and trade interests in the region. To pacify domestic critics of his preoccupation with international affairs, Mr Bush is now emphasising freer trade relations and the

creation of new jobs for recession-hit Americans from countries that are growing rich at America's expense. In particular, he will be tackling Japanese protectionism. But Australia shares many of America's problems, ironically with a recession made worse by America's own subsidies and trade restrictions.

## British relief reaches Kurds

BY MICHAEL BINTON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH aid that arrived in Baghdad on Christmas day was distributed to 450 of the neediest Kurd families in Dahuk on Monday, according to the British Red Cross officials supervising the operation in the Iraqi capital.

The consignment of baby food and medical supplies was part of a £400,000 relief package sent by the Red Cross to Baghdad for distribution by the Red Crescent. The flight was the second of three that will carry £1.5 million in food and medicines provided by the government and the British Red Cross. Two officials watched the goods being unloaded and followed some of the lorries taking it to Kurdish areas.

One of the officials, Charles Eldred-Evans, said there had been several roadblocks but no harassment by Iraqi officials, and the four-hour distribution of flour, rice and tea had been efficiently carried out by the Iraqi Red Crescent. Kurdish families in the region were receiving supplies in rotation, and food was arriving in convoys once a week.

He said that although people looked malnourished, there was no evidence of starvation or of extreme hardship. In spite of the economic blockade imposed on the Kurdish areas by President Saddam Hussein, there was food in the shops — "though obviously the situation would deteriorate quickly if aid dried up". Help was coming from the World Food Programme, the United Nations and the Red Cross, he added. Britain said on Monday it would provide a further £1 million in emergency aid for Kurds, Shias and other vulnerable groups in Iraq.

## Israelis fear missing servicemen have been forgotten by world

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THERE was little to celebrate at the home of Tami Arad last night as the new year approached and her prospects of being reunited with her husband seemed dim.

Like scores of families in Israel and Lebanon who had hoped that their detained relatives would be home by the end of 1991, Mrs Arad cannot help greeting the new year with a sense of bitterness that the fate of her husband and five other Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon has been forgotten by the world.

Now that the saga of the Western hostages in Beirut is almost over, "I thought that once their people had been freed they would better understand what it was like to have your husband held hostage. But the Western public is not interested in the subject any more," she said. Her husband, Captain Ron Arad, is an air force navigator whose Phantom jet was shot down over southern Lebanon five years ago.

She feels particularly let down by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, who retired as secretary-general of the United Nations last night. In the summer, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar set in motion a three-way plan for the release of hostages in the Middle East. It envisaged the freeing of all Westerners held in Beirut, the return of the six Israelis and the freeing by Israel of some 300 Lebanese Shia Muslims from the Khiam detention centre in southern Lebanon. Although Israel freed 91 Lebanese prisoners and received the body of one missing soldier and information confirming that two missing men were dead, the case of Captain Arad, the only serviceman known to have been captured alive, has not been advanced.

"I believed Señor Pérez de Cuéllar when he said he would do something for us," said Mrs Arad, who returned

from America recently after a largely unsuccessful attempt to publicise her husband's case. "Several times he asked the Israeli government for gestures, but we did not get anything in return." Although Giandomenico Pico, the UN special envoy, is expected to continue his efforts to free hostages in the region, Israeli negotiators are concerned that the process will be slowed down as Boutros Boutros Ghali, the incoming UN secretary-general, adjusts to his new job.

Israel's coalition government was under threat, and the economy facing possible disruption yesterday when right-wing and religious extremists fought to secure for themselves additional funds out of next year's budget. In a display of political brinkmanship, ultra-orthodox Jewish and nationalist parties, which currently hold the balance of power, tried to win extra subsidies worth millions of pounds for projects, ahead of a midnight deadline for the Knesset to approve the £20 billion budget.

Three ultra-orthodox parties are demanding direct control over government funds for religious schools and academies. Other junior partners in the government also threatened to vote

against the budget, unless more subsidies were made available for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Mr Shamir, who must go to the polls by November this year, appeared determined to push through a compromise solution, although in a speech to Likud party members on Monday night he hinted that he would defy junior members of his coalition and call early elections if necessary. The

impasse could damage Israel's economy as the country struggles to absorb thousands of new immigrants while facing high inflation and unemployment.

## Morocco fines UK pilot

FROM REUTERS  
IN RABAT

A MOROCCAN court has fined Jonathan Barrett, a British pilot who flew low over one of King Hassan's palaces after losing his bearings in cloud, diplomats said yesterday.

Mr Barrett was ordered to pay 2,000 dirhams (£140) for flying in a prohibited zone. He flew over the king's seaside palace at Skhirat, near Rabat, after being refused permission to land at Casablanca because of bad weather. He was ordered back to Rabat but lost his way. When he came out of dense cloud he was over the palace.

Diplomats said they had no other details about Mr Barrett or his plane. He was questioned by security forces on landing at Rabat but was not detained pending his court appearance.



Gone with the wind: an Orthodox Jew, with his broken umbrella, sprints for cover in freezing, rain-lashed Jerusalem yesterday. Israel was bracing itself for storms and snow

## Quayle becomes unlikely star

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

President Bush's popularity plunged 40 points in 1991, and both his administration and the Republican party showed signs of unravelling. But amid the gloom of the year's end shone one unlikely point of light: Dan Quayle.

Washington is re-evaluating the vice-president, who until recently was the butt of a thousand jokes. He has developed stature and influence and has proved quietly effective.

As Mr Bush and his aides have flip-flopped on issue after issue, Mr Quayle is seen in retrospect to have offered consistent and generally prudent counsel. He insisted that Congress should vote on war with Iraq, and later argued strongly for aid to Kurd refugees.

He opposed the tax-raising budget agreement that cost Mr Bush so much support. To the extent that the administration has a domestic programme, Mr Quayle lends it coherence and momentum. He is beginning to attract favourable press reviews, the *Boston Globe* calling him "one of the more powerful vice-presidents in recent times". Democrats who ridiculed him as a lightweight now denounce him, in the words of *The Wall Street Journal*, as a "scheming Rasputin".

He is still a poor public performer, and he could not be described as popular, but even as Mr Bush's ratings have plummeted, his own have begun creeping up. According to Gallup, 43 per cent of Americans believe Mr Bush should keep him on the 1992 ticket, a rise of four points since May and eight since March 1990.

The principal engine for Mr Quayle's rehabilitation has been the obscure Council on Competitiveness which he chairs. Its task is to strip excessive red tape from all new legislation, and he has used it to achieve the difficult vice-presidential feat of developing his own distinct agenda while remaining loyal to his boss. In pursuit of economic growth he has watered down the Clean Air Act, killed important recycling legislation and redefined "wetlands" to open up millions of acres for commercial development.

In August he generated popular acclaim by taking on the mighty legal lobby and arguing that litigation was so out of control that it was seriously undermining America's competitiveness.

Democrats and environmentalists accuse Mr Quayle of running a "shadow government" and of being "in the pocket of business". The *Wall Street Journal* said that this transition from "village idiot" to "scheming Rasputin" can only mean he's begun to accomplish something.

Mr Quayle wants to become president in 1996.

## Bikers give helmet law a rough ride

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

IN CALIFORNIA, real men never donned crash helmets — not until today that is, when a new state law requires helmets to be worn at all times. The several-hundred-strong brotherhood of Hollywood celebrity Harley bikers includes Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Janet Jackson, the pop singer, David Day Lewis, the British actor, and Eric Clapton, the rock star.

With Harley Davidson motorcycles one of the trendiest forms of transport in Los Angeles, many celebrity bikers are incensed over the new law, which they see as dealing their image a serious blow.

Nearly all California's bikers claim the new law amounts to political discrimination and infringement of freedom of choice. "A motorcyclist should be able to feel the wind through his hair, if that's what he wants," said Wayne Thomas

of the California Motorcyclists' Association. Other pressure groups have compared the law to making armbands mandatory for

I like to feel the wind through my hair, man.



surfers, or condoms for lovers.

California today becomes the 24th state to require helmets to be worn. Failure to do so will incur a \$100 (£53) maximum fine, rising to \$250 for a second offence within a year and then possible jail.

The law has had anything but an easy ride in the statute books. Sponsored by Dick Floyd in the state assembly and signed last May by Governor Pete Wilson, it was introduced as a way of reducing the estimated \$100 million cost to California of injuries to uninsured motorcyclists. "These guys argue it's their right to bash their heads on a kerb and kill themselves. I agree with them. But the bastards don't die and the state has to pick up the tab," Mr Floyd said.

The battle has raged for nearly a decade. Some opponents see the law as a threat to the culture of California, whose open highways have been immortalised ever since Marlon Brando set the standard in *The Wild One* in 1954. In 1969, Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson rode customised bikes to a cult following in *Easy Rider*. Earlier

this year Mickey Rourke starred in *Harley Davidson and the Marlborough Man*. There has been widespread opposition to the new law, with recent rallies in Los Angeles and Sacramento attracting more than 4,000 bikers. Bikers have been advised to boycott the law by its opponents.

"Nobody is going to make me put on a brain bucket," said Edmund Tafuya, aged 37, seated on his Harley outside the El Sereno weekend bikers' hang-out. "If a cop pulls me over, I'll refuse to sign the tickets."

But the good news for at least one retail shop in the recession, is that the law has dramatically boosted sales of helmets, which range in price from \$50 to \$350 for the ultimate in aerodynamic design and foam comfort. Many, however, carry a disclaimer for accidents occurring at speeds in excess of 15mph.

## Khmer chief leaves

FROM AFP  
IN PHNOM PENH

KHIEU Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, left the Cambodian capital yesterday just 24 hours after he arrived to attend the first meeting here of the Supreme National Council.

The foreign ministry here confirmed that he took an early-morning flight to Bangkok. No official explanation was given for his departure, and it surprised diplomats and United Nations officials. The next scheduled meeting of the council is on January 10, but a UN source at Monday's meeting said Khieu Samphan seemed hesitant about that date.

On Khieu Samphan's previous return to Phnom Penh, a mob nearly lynched him after demonstrations against the bloody years of Khmer Rouge rule got out of control.

## Manila tells US to quit base this year

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

THE Philippines has served formal notice on the United States to quit Subic Bay, its largest naval base overseas, by the end of 1992. In a statement the government emphasised that it wanted a smooth takeover of the base while maintaining close ties with the United States.

The statement served to underline the uncertain climate in which the Philippines must now go it alone in trying to convert the base into a commercial shipyard. The conversion plans are only at draft stage, but the Philippines has sacrificed American goodwill.

Both sides abandoned talks for a three-year gradual withdrawal after Washington refused to accede to the Philippines demands for a specific timetable for departure, or to say if it had nuclear weapons at the base. Officials in Washington said that the withdrawal of 5,800 servicemen at Subic Bay could be

accelerated to less than one year.

The closure ends a century of controversial US relations with its former colony. The Americans took possession of the Philippines in 1898 but gave it independence in 1946. The Subic Bay



naval base and Clark air base — the latter was handed back to the Philippines after a volcanic eruption damaged it — employed 70,000 Filipinos. The closure of Subic Bay will displace 38,000 people.



# Flights of the urbane space man

Sir Norman Foster,  
one of Britain's  
most successful  
architects, talks to  
Marcus Binney

This Christmas Sir Norman Foster organised the ultimate office party, flying his entire London staff to Barcelona for the day to look at their newly completed communications tower on a mountain top above the city.

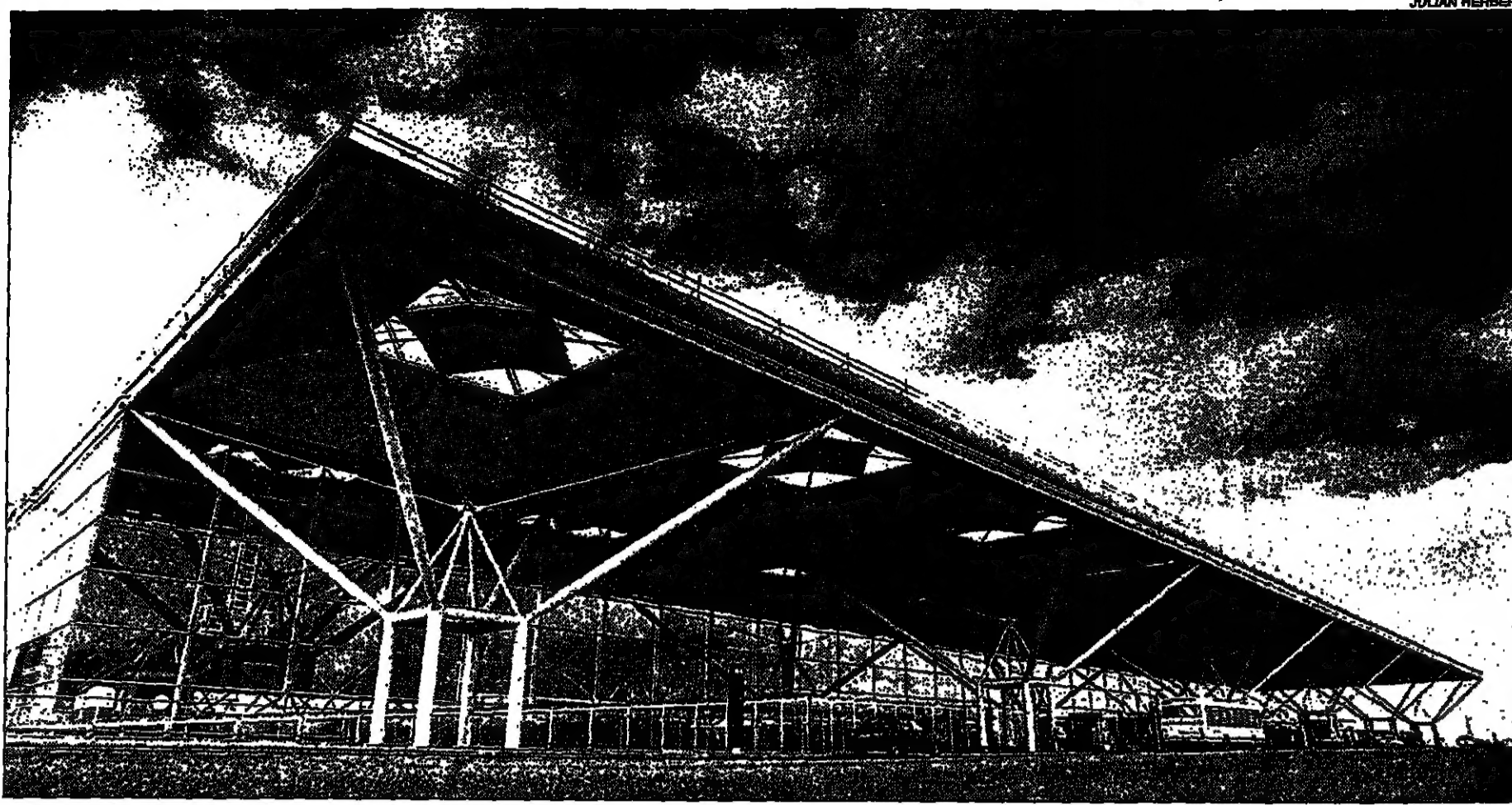
His buoyant practice (from tomorrow, Foster Associates is renamed Sir Norman Foster and Partners, marking the sharing of the equity with his four principal partners) is divided in almost equal thirds between Britain, Continental Europe and Japan. At home he has recently completed the new ITN headquarters in Gray's Inn Road and is working on libraries for the Cambridge law faculty and Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Across the Channel, cylindrical office blocks are nearing completion in Duisburg, north Germany, while in Nîmes the structure of his new museum and art gallery opposite the famous Roman Maison Carrée is complete. In Japan his stupendous Millennium Tower (at 840m it would be nearly twice the height of the Sears Tower in Chicago) is still on hold, but his 21-storey Century Tower in Tokyo opened in May 1991.

Foster's architecture today is characterised by two tendencies. The first is towards a powerful Expressionism, particularly of structural elements; he repeatedly uses the word drama to describe his buildings. And the second is towards a progressive "reductionism" by which buildings become ever lighter, simpler and more transparent.

"It's tempting to use the word 'minimalism'," he says. "But it implies the spirit has been taken out with everything else. I prefer to liken it to the transition from prose to poetry. You're producing a structure with fewer elements, but each element does more work and has more meaning."

He takes great pride in the range of his commissions. At one end is the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (at £5 billion the world's most expensive building) and his master plan for the railway land at Kings Cross in London (the largest inner-city development site in Europe). At



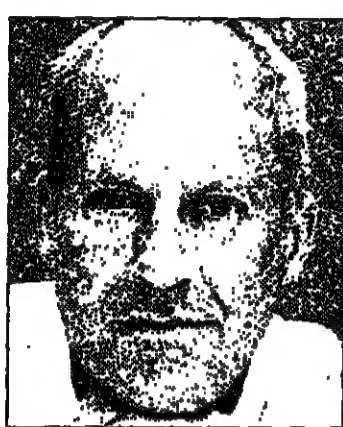
Stansted Airport, designed by Sir Norman Foster: "there is no servicing to be seen. It is like a Gothic cathedral. The envelope and the structure are one and the same."

the other end are private houses in Corsica and Japan, shop interiors for Cacharel and the Nomos range of furniture.

Light and loftiness are two of the hallmarks of Foster's work. He has the ability, achieved by Balthasar Neumann in the 18th century, to create all-white interiors in which the intensity of light burns out the structure. "I have a consuming interest in the changing qualities of natural light and the way it can dissolve into artificial light," he says.

Many people think it's just a happy accident," he continues. "but we do a huge amount of work." For Stansted Airport, lengthy studies were made to eliminate all possible pinpoints of artificial light and give the building a uniform luminous glow at night.

Turning to his Spanish work he says: "We're designing the ultimate mountain-top eyrie and the ultimate cave." The eyrie is the rocket-shaped telecommunications tower, while the caverns are the



**'You're producing a structure with fewer elements, but each element does more work and has more meaning'**

— Sir Norman Foster

stations for the new metro at Bilbao.

Spencer de Grey, one of Foster's fellow directors, draws a contrast with the London Underground where "you have a sequence of quite claustrophobic connected spaces from the ticket offices down to the platforms. In Bilbao we sought to preserve the drama of the

engineering shapes that develop from resisting forces. Just think of the Tube stripped of all its ticky-tacky coverings."

In Bilbao the tunnel walls of the station are fully exposed and finished in a bluish-grey local aggregate. The mezzanines, ticket offices and staircases are all suspended above the platforms and constructed

in stainless steel. "Bilbao has a big local shipbuilding industry so all of this has been manufactured locally," De Grey adds.

Foster's high-tech architecture is inevitably the result of close co-operation with engineers. De Grey explains: "Engineers are used to their work being entirely covered up. When we say there will be a major engineering presence for all to see, it immediately sets up a creative relationship."

Foster continues: "If there is a theme to our architecture it is the idea of integrity between the structure and all the buildings' services. At Stansted there is not a single piece of servicing to be seen. It is like a Gothic cathedral. The envelope and the structure are one and the same."

Foster's ability to think inventively about space is most apparent in his designs for a new tower for the Commerzbank in Frankfurt. Most office blocks, he points out, consist of a series of identical floors, often looking out over an empty atrium.

The new tower is in the form of an equilateral triangle with gently curving sides. The surprise is to find none of the usually solid lift cores in the centre interrupting the open layout. All the lifts are contained in a V-shaped projection at one corner. There are, however, considerably fewer lifts than usual, as they stop only at every third floor necessitating a walk up or down one storey to reach the other levels.

This is the key to the brilliance of the design. On each trio of floors, Foster bites out one entire segment to create a huge indoor garden. These gardens ascend in a continuous spiral around the tower.

His studio bristles with projects. Among them is a portable concert stage for Paul McCartney: "in canvas and designed to fold up and go on a jumbo."

His latest venture is a large yacht. "Not one of those flabby gin palaces. I'm looking for something leaner, keener, akin to Shaker furniture. No more interiors pretending you're somewhere else."

## Better late

THE Academy Awards ceremony is still nearly three months away, but we already know two recipients of the Oscar statuette. Satyajit Ray, India's most famous director, has been awarded an honorary Oscar, although none of his films, stretching back to *Pather Panchali* in 1955, has ever received an Oscar nomination. The Gordon E. Sawyer Award, given for "technological contributions" to the industry, will be presented to Ray Harryhausen, special effects wizard.

## Now we are ten

ONLY yesterday, it seems, the Barbican Centre in London was the butt of a hundred jokes relating to the alleged difficulty of finding the place. But 18 million visitors have managed to find 22,000 events there in the last decade. This statistic has been released as the Barbican prepares for its tenth anniversary on March 3. The London Symphony Orchestra plays a birthday gala that evening under the batons of Georg Solti and Michael Tilson Thomas, which will be the climax of a Birthday Season running from February 24 to March 8. The season also includes, coincidentally, the 1,000th Barbican concert promoted by Raymond Gubbay.

## Last chance...

The Royal Shakespeare Company's Barbican season ends this week (071-638 8891), carrying away into memory two excellent productions that started life over 18 months ago at Stratford. In *Titus Andronicus* the trustful hero is now played by Paterson Joseph but the cast is otherwise unchanged, with Simon Russell Beale unforgotten as the pious Titus. In *Much Ado About Nothing*, delightfully set amid trees and hedges, Roger Allan continues to court Susan Fleetwood. Both productions end on Saturday.

## ARTS/REVIEWS

Rossini in prospect  
page 14

# Hooking the public

As TV's contenders  
square up for the  
1992 title fight,  
Steve Clarke adds  
up the points

For television viewers 1992 will mark the end of an era. The old-style, heavily policed ITV, where all programmes are approved in advance by the Independent Television Commission, is about to enter its final phase.

And after what seems like an eternity of anodyne early evening chat on BBC1, Terry Wogan is to make way for a new soap set on the Costa del Sol and designed to bring a healthy glow to the channel's dismal audience figures.

The demise of a quasi-Reithian ITV, which still schedules current affairs programmes such as *This Week and World in Action* in peak viewing time, and the arrival of yet another soap at the BBC, signals the beginning of a more competitive style in British television.

Television's Big Bang and the introduction of a seriously commercial broadcasting system begins in a year. Meanwhile, audiences and broadcasters will have to struggle through 1992, a period that, ironically, includes a general election and the Olympics, both of which are certain to be big television events.

"It's going to be a unique year," an ITV executive says. "Companies like Thames, TVS and TV-am, which lost their franchises, will do everything they can to maximise their revenue by scheduling programmes that will attract big audiences as cheaply as possible. The temptation will be to screen a top quiz show or a movie rather than an expensive drama."

This sounds like bad news for viewers accustomed to ITV occasionally providing more than the latest vehicle for Jeremy Beadle or Cilla Black. But, following the franchise round, ITV no longer has the incentive to reach for the high ground, because it does not need to impress the ITC.

In London, Thames, once the flagship of ITV but now a lame duck broadcaster, has celebrated the new year by axing much of its local programming, including *Thames Reports*, *The City Programme* and *Thames Action*, the consumer affairs show. In March, TV-am will wind up its news operation and Sky News will supply news coverage for the ill-fated breakfast station.

This year the only Thames



Still the craze, after all these years: Lynne Perrie (left) and Helen Worth of *Coronation Street*

drama production likely to rival 1991's *Selling Hitler*, the story of the Hitler diaries scam, and John Le Carré's *Murder of Quality*, is a version of Angus Wilson's *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*.

For classy, non detective-based drama, viewers will be better off with BBC2, which is planning a treatment of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*, starring David Suchet and Cheryl Campbell, while Channel 4 has two new works by Dennis Potter.

Even so, ITV is well-placed to hang on to its ratings lead. The biggest challenge for the BBC in the year ahead, apart from ensuring that its general election coverage is up to scratch, is to exploit ITV's interregnum year and improve BBC1's poor ratings performance. The last time the ITV licences changed hands, BBC1's audiences soared. This time it will be more difficult to recapture lost ground.

By recommissioning new series

Source: The Media Factor/BAF

PROGRAMME	CHANNEL	MILLIONS	WEEK ENDING
Coronation Street	ITV	19.84	Nov 24
Only Fools and Horses	BBC1	19.93	Feb 3
Darling Buds of May	ITV	18.35	Apr 21
You've Been Framed	ITV	17.81	Feb 10
Dennis Norden's Laughter File	ITV	17.39	Sep 22
Blind Date (Wedding of the Year)	BBC1	16.89	Oct 20
EastEnders	BBC1	16.77	Nov 24
Big	ITV	16.46	Dec 8
Watching	ITV	16.42	Feb 10
Best of Blind Date	ITV	16.43	Feb 10
Casualty	BBC1	15.88	Nov 10
London's Burning	ITV	15.82	Nov 3
Inspector Morse	ITV	15.57	Feb 24
Ruth Rendell Mysteries	ITV	15.41	Oct 20
Antiques Road Show	BBC1	15.27	Dec 8
The Bill	ITV	15.27	Nov 3
Fatal Attraction	ITV	15.03	Sep 22
Blind Date	ITV	14.96	Jan 27
FA Cup Final	BBC1	14.94	May 19
The Krypton Factor	ITV	14.83	Dec 1
Mr Bean Goes to Town	ITV	14.42	Oct 20
Strike it Lucky	ITV	14.13	Nov 10
Prime Suspect	ITV	14.11	Apr 14

of London's *Burning* (which won audiences of over 18 million last year), *The Darling Buds of May*, *Inspector Morse* and *Poirot*, ITV's proven policy of screening "popular quality drama" will be a difficult act for the BBC to beat.

In the past year or so BBC1's budget has received an additional £62 million to improve its drama and comedy shows. The new Andalusian soap, provisionally entitled *Little England*, is being paid for out of this extra money. But it will need more than another soap to stop the ratings rot.

Both the main terrestrial channels will continue to face growing competition from BSkyB and new satellite channels. So far, BSkyB has defied the recession. In October and November dish sales exceeded 100,000 and almost two million homes in the UK now have satellite dishes.

In February BSkyB may receive a further boost when it shows exclusive coverage of the Cricket World Cup, but it is the coming contest for the rights to screen Premier League football that may determine how BSkyB fares in 1992. ITV's deal with the Football League expires in May and both the BBC and BSkyB intend to bid for the contract.

Greg Dyke, chairman of ITV Sport, has made it clear that he will do everything he can to ensure that live, exclusive League soccer remains on ITV. And, in the coming competitive era, ITV is unlikely to be outbid.

# Election fever no tonic for bad circulations

Charles Wintour sees scant good news for the press in 1992, although better tidings are coming from the North

General elections usually provide newspapers with a healthy lift in circulation and, since governments do everything they can to provide an economic upturn at election time, an election may also help advertising revenue. Newspapers, like everybody else, could use a bit of good news.

In general, circulations are heading downwards — as they have been for the past ten years — and jobs advertising, in particular, has taken a pasting. So the fact that 1992 is an election year is good news for the press.

It should be particularly good news for the *Daily Mirror*, which can exploit to the full its position as the only daily tabloid to oppose the Tories. This could heighten its appeal to potential bidders for the rare jewel in the late Robert Maxwell's heavily tarnished crown. Mirror Group Newspapers, at present, the financial situation is still confused; even when the fog clears the lawyers will have a field day trying to determine who owns what, and where. It may take many months before a bidder could know just what he was buying.

Surprisingly, Ernie Burrington, the chairman of the group, is quite optimistic that someone may come forward "in weeks" and offer a cash injection in return for shares, with a final purchase price to be determined later. He does not hazard a guess as to who that might be. Now that the Pearson board is divided it seems less likely to bid. Lomax has dropped out. Reed International, which sold the group to Maxwell less than eight years ago, might contemplate re-entering newspaper publishing, although it denies any such intention. If no British bidder emerges, apart from the proposed management buy-out, I would expect a continental publisher to come forward, perhaps from Germany. How would that wash with the readers?

The election will also focus some attention on *Today's Newspaper*. Recently it has been showing signs of breaking away from the *Mail-Express-Sun* axis of flat-out support for the Tories. With sales running below 450,000, some 15 per cent down on last year, yet with a very respectable news content, it needs to show it has a mind of its own.

At the last general election *The Independent* gave no advice to its

readers on how to vote. It may take the same loftier-than-thou position again. But the paper is in trouble. Stories of financial losses, partly due to the launch of *The Independent on Sunday* at the wrong time, and of low morale among the editorial staff, are too common. Sometime in the new year a further cash injection may well be needed.

The paper's continental backers may come forward again, but who will buy Maxwell's 5 per cent share holding? And what if the buyer offers more money for more shares? *The Independent* will survive, but will the management structure do the same?

Among the Sunday tabloids this could be the year when the

Even with the election, it looks like another tough year for newspapers

column-dominated *Mail on Sunday* overtakes the ailing *People*. Barely 100,000 copies separate them now and, in the six months to November, compared with the same period a year earlier, *The People* lost 342,000, while the *MoS* put on 32,000.

This could also be the year when the *Sunday Express* finally bottoms out from its long decline by transforming itself into a lightweight paper that Lord

Beaverbrook, its founder, would hardly recognise.

There are, of course, too many quality Sunday papers. *The Sunday Times*, selling an average of 1,181,000 copies in November, more than 600,000 ahead of its nearest competitor, will surely take the lead in pushing the Tory cause at election time, despite its content for Norman Lamont and his policies. *The Observer* may benefit from its critical stance, but it is now fighting a price differential of 20p with the *Sunday Telegraph*, a paper that has finally embraced the arts.

For all newspapers the crucial question remains: when will the recession end? They may find the answer in their own classified columns; frequently the key to future economic trends.

Here Charles Brims, chief executive of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, is in a good position to read the runes. He saw the recession first hit Croydon as early as May 1989; Sunderland did not suffer until December, 1990. Now he sees signs that the north of England may be starting to emerge from the worst. In Sunderland, total advertising in October was ahead of October 1990 and, while recruitment is still running 40 to 50 per cent down, "at least it's not getting any worse."

He believes the real upturn will not come until next spring at the earliest, and is half expecting to see it later than that, with recruitment the last to benefit. Yes, even with the election, it looks like another tough year for newspapers.

## FLEET STREET'S TOP TEN

MARKET SHARE	
Increases per 100,000 copies sold	
Sunday Mirror	470
Daily Telegraph	320
Financial Times	240
Sunday Times	430
Mail on Sunday	350
The Sun	280
Daily Mail	180
News of the World	180
Daily Mirror	60
Sunday Express	50
SALES FIGURES	
Popular daily	11,551,042
Sunday papers	1,751,042
Quality daily	2,636,458
Quality Sunday	2,577,470
Source: ABC Jan 1991/Nov 1991	



# The war that almost wasn't

**William Greaves on how Falklands war protagonists agreed to face the television cameras**

**H**ugh Scully is best known as the presenter of *The Antiques Roadshow*, so it is no surprise that when he first entered the room, the 18th century print of a British man of war above the fireplace caught his eye. But Mr Scully's interest was not in the print's antiquarian value, but rather its position in the pride of place in a flat on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

The flat was within the heavily guarded Naval Mechanical School and its occupant, a prisoner, was Admiral Jorge Anaya, formerly naval head of the Argentine junta from 1981 to 1982, and the overall architect of the Falklands invasion. Noting his visitor's interest, Anaya said: "I have always been a great admirer of the Royal Navy and nothing that happened in 1982 caused me to think otherwise."

Mr Scully was in Buenos Aires in 1989, a year after Anaya's imprisonment, to carry out the first interview of the admiral had given since 1982, and to complete research for *The Falklands War*, his television series to mark the conflict's tenth anniversary, which begins on Channel 4 this month.

When the news broke of the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982, Mr Scully was a reporter with *Nationwide*, the BBC's nightly current affairs programme. "From that moment I followed the story of the war through to its conclusion," he recalls today. "Except that it never really did reach a conclusion. So many questions were left unanswered."

The story of how Mr Scully crossed the Atlantic to persuade military and political leaders of Britain, America and Argentina to answer some of those questions is as remarkable as anything that has happened since. The journey began, appropriately enough, in Nelson's cabin aboard H.M.S. Victory in Portsmouth.

Three years ago Mr Scully was invited there for dinner with Admiral Sir John (Sandy) Woodward, the British Task Group commander. "He mentioned that he had kept a diary throughout the campaign," Mr Scully says. "I enquired whether he had thought of publishing it. 'Do you think anyone would be interested?' he said."

Within 48 hours Mr Scully had found a publisher for the book, to be released this month. Then he returned to Mr Woodward with a television documentary in view.

After Mr Woodward's agreement to appear on screen, the broadcaster, who runs an independent television production company, spent the next six months building up a cast list of 50 of the most prominent players in the Falklands drama. Mrs Thatcher, however, resisted his powers of persuasion.

First on his list were Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, the land force commander, and Major-General Julian Thompson, commander of the 3rd Commando Brigade. Both agreed to take part.

"And then came Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, then First Sea Lord, now living in retirement near Winchester," Mr Scully says. "It was he who was responsible for sending the task force to recapture the Falklands."

What Sir Henry told Mr Scully at their meeting was just how nearly there never was a Falklands war. His story centred on March 31, 1982: "The day when the government knew for the first time that the Argentine invasion was under way," Mr Scully says.



Jorge Anaya: former naval head of the junta



Hector Bonzo: captain of the General Belgrano



Alexander Haig: the US secretary of state



Sir Henry Leach: the man who sent the task force



Sir Terence Lewin: then chief of the defence staff



Juan Jose Lombardo: he planned the invasion



Benjamin Menendez: short-lived governor



Sir Jeremy Moore: the land forces commander



Julian Thompson: head of 3rd Commando Brigade



Harry Train: supreme allied commander in the Atlantic



Caspar Weinberger: US defence secretary in 1982



Sir John Woodward: the task group commander

several senior officials. "Asked to assume that the worst happened and the Falklands were occupied, Mr Nott said that any attempt to recapture the islands would be fraught with danger."

"Sir Henry had read the same reports — and didn't agree with them," Mr Scully says. "He scoured the MoD in search of the minister, was told he was at the House and drove there. When news reached Mrs Thatcher that the First Sea Lord was in the building she asked him to join in, and he told her that there was something which could be done."

Five hours later, the meeting at last broke up. Sir Henry told Mr Scully, with a conversation between himself and the prime minister. Mrs Thatcher: "What do you want me to do?" Sir Henry: "I want you to give me authority to form a task force, and furthermore I believe we should send it."

"If we didn't, Britain would be a lesser place to live in," "You have my authority, when can it sail?" "Prime minister, it will be ready to sail by Monday, April 5th."

Mr Scully believes that if Sir Henry had not gone to the House of Commons, the task force would not have sailed. The next man on his list was Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, who had been the chief of the defence staff and Mrs Thatcher's right-hand man. Sir Terence not only pledged his appearance, but

also sent a telegram to General Alexander Haig, the US secretary of state in 1982. Mr Haig's affirmative reply was received within 24 hours. Caspar Weinberger, the former US defence secretary, also joined the cast, as did Admiral Harry Train, supreme allied commander in the Atlantic.

Mr Train's verdict, when Mr Scully interviewed him in Norfolk, Virginia, was illuminating: "It was all so very British — the charge of the Light Brigade all over again! The US would never have attempted it without three carrier battle groups (about three times the British force). It was an extremely risky, chancy operation."

With the British and American ends almost tied up, Mr Scully presented himself in Buenos Aires. He had no contacts, so booked into the Sheraton and phoned the Foreign Ministry press office. "By later that same day they had made an appointment for me to see Vice-Admiral Juan Jose Lombardo, the chief of naval operations in 1982, the man responsible for the detailed planning of the invasion. He met me in the Naval Club and took me into the room where the planning had taken place — I was in the enemy lair."

Mr Scully told Señor Lombardo that the most important person on his list was Anaya. "Ever since Anaya was a small boy he had dreamed of liberating the

Malvinas, and he had planned the invasion." The chances of a meeting looked slim, but Señor Lombardo phoned with the message: "Admiral Anaya will see you on Saturday at 10am."

At 9.30am a green Ford Falcon arrived at the Sheraton. As Mr Scully got into it he realised that this was the very make and colour of car which had carried away many of the 20,000 people who had disappeared in the "dirty war" of the late 1970s.

He was taken to the Naval Mechanical School. "I was expecting a prison, but he was living in extremely comfortable circumstances in an officer's flat," Mr Scully says. "For me it was almost like being in Hitler's bunker."

Why, Mr Scully asked Anaya, did they invade? Argentina, Anaya said, had been growing increasingly frustrated by British diplomatic prevarication over the Malvinas negotiations. It was

known that Britain favoured a policy of decolonisation, that Lord Carrington was a liberal foreign secretary who would never get involved in military action, and that, at worst, a task force would be sent, but would then be forced to retreat as a result of US and United Nations intervention. The junta had "nothing to lose".

But why do so on April 2, when Argentina knew that six months later, as a result of the 1981 defence review, the aircraft carriers *Hermes* and *Invincible* would both have been sold and other ships scrapped? "Anaya told me how his naval attaché had seen a British television news report in late March which revealed that the British were sending submarines to the South Atlantic in response to mounting tension in the area," Mr Scully says.

"He had 12 days in which to mount the invasion. That report was inaccurate, but it effectively started the Falklands War."

While in Argentina, Mr Scully also won the promise of an interview with General Benjamin Menendez, briefly Argentina's governor of the Malvinas and with Captain Hector Bonzo, captain of the General Belgrano, the Argentine cruiser sunk on May 2, 1982 with the loss of 368 lives. When Mr Scully met Señor Bonzo, the captain told him: "War is war. You expect to be attacked. What did surprise us was that the British did nothing when we were a threat, but attacked when we had been heading away from the task force for several hours."

What was the final assessment? "As Jeremy Moore put it, it was a damned close thing," Mr Scully says. "If it had gone on one more week it would probably have been lost. Sandy Woodward admits that if every Argentinean bomb which struck British ships had exploded, then that would have been the end of it anyway."

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## Guilt-free ice age

TO GREET the new year in a New Age way, Iceland Frozen Foods has launched a domestic freezer totally free from CFC gas. The initiative has been welcomed by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. The new refrigerator gas, Tetrafluoroethane, has been developed by ICI, and the blowing agent used to make the foam is supplied by Shell. Both are said to be non-toxic and non-flammable and to not affect the ozone layer in any way. The new freezer, called IceLine 3, will sell at all Iceland stores for £259, £50 more than the standard model, to cover the new technology costs and more expensive gases, but still competitively priced.

## Safe themes

PACIFIST parents will be (mildly) relieved by Oh No! — More Lemmings — a sequel to the non-violent Lemmings computer game introduced last year by Psychosis, the Liverpool-based software manufacturer. The object of Lemmings is to save little furry creatures — rather than to kill or destroy. Oh No! — More Lemmings continues this theme. The complete game costs £25.99 and is available for most popular computer ranges, and a "data disk" version requiring the original Lemmings disk costs £19.99.

## Small scale fun

JUST after the worst trading Christmas for many years may seem a strange time to start such a business, but Frank McGuire is convinced there is a market for his scaled-down Landrovers, Corvettes and Model T Fords, from about £1,000 each. "Market research shows us that there is a demand. We're coming up with a Rolls-Royce and a Formula One racing car, for about £1,200 each," he says. The cars come either with an electric motor or a 3.5 horsepower petrol engine, and may be driven on private roads. Has he got permission from the car companies concerned? "We're looking at the legal situation now, but don't anticipate any problems," he says. Further details from Young Wheels Corporation, Church Farm Works, Coughton Fields, Alcester, Warwickshire, call 0605 82304.

VICTORIA MCKEE

## Private lives go public

Secret details about the private lives of a whole generation of Victorians will be opened to public view tomorrow when the Public Record Office lifts its century-old ban on disclosure of data gathered in the national census of 1891.

Like ourselves when we filled in our census forms last year, our forebears of 1891 revealed how they lived their private lives under a guarantee that their individual returns would not be made public for 100 years. Until a century has passed, census information is only published in the form of national and county statistics — adequate for planners and policy-makers, but tantalisingly unhelpful for researchers and genealogists trying to trace their family histories.

For family tree researchers, it is the minutiae of detail revealed for the first time that will be most useful. Researching hatches, matches and dispatches at St Catherine's House, London, is useful, but unless additional information from other sources is available the researcher is often left uncertain as to whether he or she has found the person in question, and not someone else of the same name.

In the 1891 census, middle-aged people will find their grandparents, and the younger generation will find its great grandparents. The census was the ninth in a series which had been running every ten years since 1801. But in the early years, enumerators' records were discarded once the statistical summary had been made.

## Genealogists will gain as a 100-year 1891 census data ban lifts tomorrow

asked pointed questions about employment, about the numbers of people living in rooms, and recorded the numbers in jails and workhouses. It was a social document, and its findings were frequently grim.

The General Report to Parliament, published subsequent to the 1891 census paints a fascinating and often disturbing picture. The newly-released individual returns will flesh out the picture, by providing a record on

a village-to-village and house-to-house basis. Among the users eager to broach the local secrets of 1891 will be many schools, required to research Victorian life as part of their history studies under the national curriculum.

In 1891, the population of England and Wales was 29,002,525 — scarcely half today's figure of 49 million, but growing at 1 per cent a year, 20 times as fast as the present rate. The average late Victorian family was more than double today's size, at 4.76 children.

Some households had more than 12 people living in each room. Cities tended to have more people in each house than rural areas. Those lucky enough to have a roof over their heads were cramped into 5,451,497 dwellings, compared with the

Victorian family employed at least one skivvy. But it is far higher than the nearest equivalent today — 512,000 listed as "domestic housekeepers" and "other domestic and school helpers".

Not one woman was in the army or navy in 1891, and none were registered as engineers or surveyors. But 166 were recorded as being in the legal profession — a figure which surprises Helena Kennedy, QC, who is writing a book about women and the law. "It was not until the 1920s that women were allowed to practice as solicitors or barristers," she says. "They may have been working as clerks, perhaps."

Some grey areas are revealed. Previous censuses asked whether the respondent was a master in his or her occupation. The 1891 census found that of occupied males 9.6 per cent were employers, 76 per cent employed and 8.9 per cent worked on their own account. A builder, for example, could be both employer and employee at the same time. There was also misreporting, and some answered "yes" to all questions.

Economy with the truth prevailed then as today. Many men and women claimed to be married when they were actually living together, and presumably lied in the belief that their secret was about to be revealed.

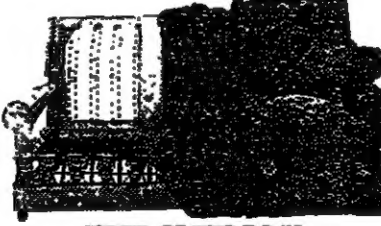
The 1891 report also expressed scepticism about the 146 men and women who claimed to be 100 years old. The transformation in living standards over a century is illustrated in that there are more than 2,400 centenarians in England and Wales, and nobody suggests that they are shamming.

GEORGE HILL  
Research by Candy and Denis Atherton

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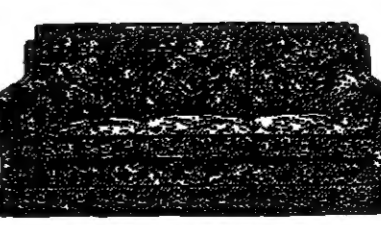
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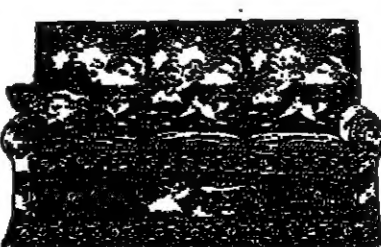
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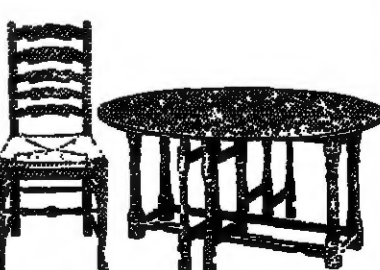
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هنا من الاول



## Conor Cruise O'Brien

German domination of Europe will make political union a much less attractive idea in the year ahead

As 1991 ended, international attention was concentrated upon the dramatic political rituals surrounding the liquidation of the Soviet Union and the eclipse of Mikhail Gorbachev. Yet I believe that historians of the next century are likely to find the most significant event of December 1991 to have been not a Russian event but a German one. This was the month in which newly-united Germany, acting on its own initiative, first threw its full weight into the European political scales, to decisive effect. This may well make the idea of "European political union" rather less alluring in 1992 than it appeared to many, during most of last year.

Last month, after the European Community's decision soon to recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia, Chancellor Kohl proclaimed "a great victory for German foreign policy". That is indeed what it was. The recognition of Croatian and Slovenian independence was a German idea, about which other members of the EC had serious reservations.

Germany dragged its partners in its wake, allowing them a face-saving delay, but proceeding with recognition itself.

I am not primarily concerned here with the merits of the decision (indeed I think the German position makes more sense than the reluctant reservations of its partners); what interests me are the implications of the decision for the character of the new Germany, for the future of Franco-German partnership, and for the nature of that European political union to which both the French and Germans are nominally dedicated. On those three matters, the Croatian-Slovenian episode is full of instruction.

Consider first the new Germany. At the time of German reunification, when some of us were making more or less alarmist noises about a resurgence of German nationalism, most comment was reassuringly sedative: a united Germany would be just the old West German Bundesrepublik writ large, and its policies and behaviour would be just the same.

But the most marked characteristic of West Germany's external policy was its consistent deference to its Western allies. No such deference was visible over Croatia, Britain, France and America all opposed recognition. Chancellor Kohl, when he was West Germany's chancellor, would never have persisted in a foreign policy initiative in the face of that united opposition. West Germany used to be fearful of throwing its weight about lest unhappy memories be re-awakened. No doubt such inhibitions still exist, but they seem to be wearing rather thin.

After the decision to recognise Croatia, Chancellor Kohl not only threw his weight about, but boasted afterwards of his success in doing so. The words "great victory for German foreign policy"

never sprang to Mr Kohl's lips while he was merely chancellor of West Germany, but they came trippingly from the tongue of the proud chancellor of the reunited Germany, as he opened a window to the East.

For Germany's EC partners and its American ally, this change is food for thought. The partner to whom it is most unpalatable is France. As is well known, the favourite French image for the partnership which has been at the heart of the Community is that of a lean, clever French rider on a big fat German horse. The Croatian decision evokes a different equestrian image: a big fat German rider on a lean French horse that doesn't look quite as clever as it once thought it was. The Quai d'Orsay will be reappraising its partnership and its partner as we enter this new year.

The drive towards European political union has long come from the Franco-German partnership, with Germany, apparently acquiescing in the French theory that the guiding brain in a politically united Europe would be French. The old West Germany did nothing to disturb this fantasy. It felt a need to reassure its allies, and it also felt a need to cling to them for reassurance. But the new, united Germany, no longer in the shadow of a Soviet superpower, feels more free to assert itself.

**'France will understand the British position on sovereignty better as Germany's deference diminishes'**

German economic hegemony within the present Community is a fact of life to which we must all adjust. Germany's European partners recognised it two weeks ago when they followed it in raising interest rates. Now it is beginning to look as though European political union — if it ever comes about — would be an institutionalised form of German political hegemony. I don't know whether Germany wants that, but I feel fairly sure none of Germany's partners wants it. Certainly this is not the kind of European political union about which the French have been weaving their eager fantasies.

In the coming year, John Major's stand before and at Maastricht will be seen to make more sense to most of the European partners than it did at the time. France in particular is likely to develop a better understanding of the British position. As the tendencies towards German hegemony are more and more felt, and as German deference towards its partners diminishes proportionately, the partners will feel a growing need to hold on to such elements of national sovereignty as they still possess.

Britain has been almost alone in expressing that need publicly, but I think the period of Britain's apparent isolation in this matter may be drawing to an end. The Croatian decision should have punctured a number of illusions about European political union and brought home its realities. If so, it is a healthy and a timely development.

The days of hunting are numbered as public opposition to it grows, warns Marion Shoard

## Hunters held at bay

Huntersmen and women cantering through the waxy winter landscape should make the most of their sport. Within a few years, it may be a thing of the past. Next month's Commons debate on Kevin McNamara's private member's bill to outlaw fox-hunting, stag-hunting and hare-coursing will mark the huntman's reluctant arrival in the centre of the political stage.

This particular bill cannot become law before the election, but Labour has promised that if it wins it will hold a free vote on whether the hunting of foxes, deer and other mammals with hounds should be banned. In a Labour-dominated House of Commons, a majority would almost certainly favour a ban. If, however, the vote were lost, fox-hunting might still fall victim to another Labour proposal. A new law making it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to a wild mammal might be interpreted by the courts as outlawing hunting completely, or at least crucial elements of the sport, such as terrier-work.

Lack of an overall majority might not stop Labour from implementing these plans. Since 1989, the Liberal Democrats have been committed to an outright

ban on hunting. But would even a Tory victory protect the hunt indefinitely? The landed gentry are now almost unrepresented in the cabinet, while well-known Tories like Sir Teddy Taylor and Dame Janet Fookes are backing next month's anti-hunting bill. John Major owes nothing to the rural establishment, is president of the Huntingdon RSPCA and, most important of all, is acutely sensitive to the wishes of an electorate which is beginning to demand to be heard on this issue.

Last month a Gallup survey found that 80 per cent of voters disapprove of fox-hunting. This is not surprising. What was less predictable was that virtually the same figure, 79 per cent, pronounced themselves in favour of a ban on hunting. In the past, people have been quick to disapprove of what they have seen as abuse of animals, but have shown some respect for the right of others to make their own decisions about it when deliberate cruelty is not involved. Now, however, there



Still riding to hounds in Hampshire

seems to be a growing determination by the anti-hunting majority to impose its point of view.

Behind this increasing proscription lies a revolution in attitudes to animal life. As Chris-

tianity has withered, so has the Judeo-Christian idea that man is entitled to dominion over beasts. In its place has come the quasi-religion of one earth, shared by threatened creatures, with man as just one species among many. In such a world, animal rights take on the characteristics of human rights: like human rights they are to be upheld even against abusers who do not acknowledge their validity. It becomes as outrageous to hunt foxes for fun, as it seems today (but did not always) to hunt aboriginal human beings.

Not only fox-hunting is threatened by such attitudes. Much else in our lives may have to change as well. Plymouth's Labour council has drawn up an animal rights charter which would ban not only hunting but shooting and all fishing with barbed hooks on or from council land, along with boiling lobsters, whipping horses and giving goldfish as prizes at fairs. Brighton Dolphinarium has shut, and Oxford and Cambridge, the last A-level examining board to

insist on compulsory dissection for biology students, has now given in.

All this is far from being mere eccentricity on the part of the animal-obsessed British. The European Commission is planning to set minimum standards for zoos, the European Parliament is gunning for cosmetics testing, and a Spanish town has banned bull-fighting. Australia gave us that modern martyr, Kerry Bishop of Neighbours, the pregnant mother killed by a stray shot while campaigning against duck-hunters.

As attention focuses more and more on animals and their rights, it is hard to see how they can eventually be denied one basic right that would change human life much more than a ban on hunting. If it is wrong to hunt animals for pleasure, how can it be right to eat them for pleasure, however humanely they are dispatched? A growing number of schoolchildren refuse to eat red meat, to the considerable inconvenience of the school meals service. Once the huntman is deprived of his prey, how long will it be before the target is the Sunday roast?

The author is lecturer in environment planning at Reading University.

## Can the baby survive?

The new commonwealth may not last for long, so great is the suspicion of central control, writes Mary Dejevsky

One of the multitude of end-of-year headlines in yesterday's Moscow papers ran "We know what has been, but what is to be?" "Let us wish each other success," said the workers' paper *Trud* — "and a little peace and quiet."

In the year in which the 74-year-old Bolshevik revolution was comprehensively undone, the all-powerful Soviet communist party was toppled, a Soviet leader for the first time resigned, and the Soviet Union itself was dissolved. Russian commentators offered few obituaries. Everything has happened too fast, too massively, too close-up, for considered assessment.

In the former capital of the former Soviet Union, exhaustion is tinged with curiosity. There is a sense, as 1991 gives way to 1992, that the country is tipping over the edge, but not necessarily into that fatal abyss of which Mikhail Gorbachev liked to warn in his last months of power. At street level before the holiday, Moscow shops offered unusual abundance and unusually long queues. Models of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs decorated the Kremlin gatehouse. Banners in the streets and little coloured flags on the front of the buses lent a festive air to the grimy snow.

Was this the harbinger of a better future, or the wake for times past? No one even wanted to know. They were luxuriating in the experience and leaving the politicians to worry. And worry they well might. The former Soviet Union may be decked with coloured flags, but its red hammer-and-sickle has been lowered for the last time, giving way to 12 republics' flags of diverse hues and leaving 74 years and more of scores to be settled.

On the map, the 15-republic union has been replaced by three independent Baltic republics, an anarchic Georgia, and a common-

wealth of 11 independent states. More realistically, it has left behind the vast and dominant land mass that is Russia, an Asian underbelly, and southern and western fringes, the former a patchwork of geographical and ethnic conflict, the latter a crescent of borderlands striving to be European. The Baltic will survive; it has charitable friends burdened with five decades of guilt. Georgia and the trans-Caucasus will probably be left to sort out their own problems as brutally as they choose until the age-old conflicts, interrupted by the formation of the Soviet Union, are played out.

The future of the former Soviet empire will not be decided here, but by the three Slav republics which formed the proto-commonwealth on December 8, and by the five Central Asian republics which coordinated their positions in Ashkhabad five days later and then added their names to the list of commonwealth founders in Alma Ata on December 21.

Still only ten days old, the commonwealth looks weak and fragile compared to the monolithic giant it replaces. But that monolith was smashed when its widening cracks were tapped, and for some time to come the strongest, most reliable union may be one that is loosely bound. It may even prove the only union possible.

Since they came together to squeeze out the old central power, the republics have been tiptoeing around the possibility of going their separate ways. The form "commonwealth" was carefully chosen. It is the loosest form of inter-republic organisation on offer: looser than federation, confederation or community, all of which were candidates to replace the union. In Russian, the word has connotations of friendship. Perhaps there is a distant echo of the false fraternity of the Eastern bloc, but this time the friendship is supposed to be real.



The Soviet Union is dead, only the fittest Republics may live

Despite its unrivalled size and strength, Russia has done its best to eschew obvious dominance — though few believe it will last. All coordinating meetings have been held outside Moscow. The Russian leader has deferred always to the home team in chairing sessions and press conferences. Each sign of Russia's supremacy — control of the nuclear button, the transfer of the UN Security Council

seat — has been ostentatiously agreed by all 11.

This delicate treatment of the other republics may still not be sufficient to ensure the commonwealth's survival. But it may already have achieved all it needs to. It has provided a mechanism for the first stage of a controlled break-up of an unhappy empire. It has allowed 11 disparate republics and three or four very different

geographical regions to strike out tentatively on their own, without severing completely the umbilical cord. The Alma Ata summit may in the future be seen as the end of the Soviet Union, not a new beginning.

The years of Soviet power have so inoculated each republic against centralisation that further coordination will be a struggle. Only by tolerating diversity will the 11 remain friends, inside or outside a commonwealth. If the commonwealth trend is still away from a centre, then 1992 will bring further divisions.

Ukraine will float free of Russia, though for a while tied securely by its nuclear weapons. Belorussia will associate itself most closely, perhaps with the Baltic states (if they allow), perhaps with Ukraine, perhaps with Russia. The five Central Asian republics will start their reabsorption into Asia proper. The southern half of Kazakhstan and Kirghizia will drift towards China; Tajikistan will drift towards Iran and Uzbekistan; and Turkmenistan towards Turkey. They may attempt to form a bloc to counter Russia's strength, but as with the commonwealth proper, only the slenderest and most sensitive threads will hold such a fragile creation. More likely, the region will be crushed and reformed.

As the no longer central, no longer Soviet, media have reminded their readers and viewers *ad nauseam*, this is the year of the monkey. People have been told what they should eat (it depends on one's star sign), how they should dress (monkey colours, beige, brown), and what sort of a year they can expect (variable, capricious). The more adventurous were told yesterday, "If you feel like hanging upside down by your tail tonight, you'll know that Darwin was at least partly right". Before the year is out, he may prove to have been right in another respect, too, as Russia and Ukraine pull ahead of the commonwealth and develop in their separate ways, demonstrating that only the keenest and the fittest survive.



...and moreover  
**PETER BARNARD**

I see from the honours list that there is still room for public spirited individuals amid the crop of yes-ministers and self-made contributors to party funds, so my wife and I have embarked on a long term campaign for a gong apiece. "For contributions to society's knowledge of itself" is how we see the citations, and OBE is the gong we are after, holding as we do the surreal view that the only club worth joining is one that no longer exists.

Our campaign began on Monday night. Hang on, my wife is saying something. Ah, she says that is not strictly correct because the man from the Family Expenditure Survey first called a fortnight, or was it 15 days ago, she thinks it was a Monday at any rate — can we get on with this?

The thing is that we agreed to tell this man all about our income and expenditure, strictly anonymously of course, in the cause of helping him to prepare the retail price index and various other measures of national impoverishment. Sorry about this, can you hang on again? Oh I see. Well, no, not helping him to prepare it, he is merely the collector of data, helping the government to prepare it. Thank you darling. God almighty, are there no floors to scrub?

The man arrived at 8pm and sat down to ask us a lot of questions. He left two hours later, yes, you are quite right, he left two hours and five minutes later, carrying a set of answers so accurate that no lie-detector

could have faulted them by so much as a tenth of a percentage point. Are all women like this? Are all men, when asked whether they have paid any house insurance in the past 12 months and if so how much, prone to having a stab at it, only to find their wives are tearing up floorboards to get at an invoice issued by Legal & General in the sum of £278.23?

One of the mistakes the Post Office computer made when it randomly selected our address for this survey was to fail to take on board the fact that in the last six months, everything in our lives has changed at least once. We have moved house, I have changed my car twice, my wife has changed hers once, and my 20-year-old daughter has changed hers once.

This, together with the woman's obsession with accuracy, produced the following contrast of styles when the subject of the cars came up. The essence of the question was: "Have you in the past 12 months bought a car, what did you pay for it and how did you pay?"

Me: "Yes. One Renault £4,300, bank loan."  
My wife: "Yes, well the Range Rover I have had for six years failed its MOT. It was very sad, but it wasn't worth repairing, the floor had rusted out, so I have bought a Fiat, quite nice and much easier to park."

Of course I can quite see how this answer would help a computer data analyst in Whitehall. You can imagine the scene: he has just arrived at work having

driven halfway round central London trying to park. He logs on to his computer. He calls up form XYZ which happens to be my wife's answers to the Family Expenditure Survey. "Hello," he says to a colleague. "Somebody here just bought a Fiat, reckons they are easy to park. Worth bearing in mind, that."

"Quite so," says his colleague, who is looking at the same data. "Mind you, who'd have thought a Range Rover would have rusted out? That's a word to the wise if ever I saw one."

The consequences of this are very nearly unimaginable, but we can try. Granted, the chances of the anti-terrorist squad turning up at a bomb explosion by a fleet of Fiat Pandas are slim, but I see no reason why my wife's endorsement of Fiat's parking qualities should not have an influence on the buying of government vehicles, an area of policy which thus far has been lamentable in terms of setting the right example *vis à vis* case of parking and economy.

As Monday night wore on, and wore on, a terrible unease overcame me. What if, in this exhaustive poking about in our lives, we are obliged to move beyond the house, the garage and the workplace and into the garden. What if the last page contained questions pertaining to our efforts in flowerbed and vegetable patch, which are after all relevant areas in the expenditure minefield?

But I drew the line at digging up my iris bulbs to count them. Except for a knighthood.

## Matter of fax

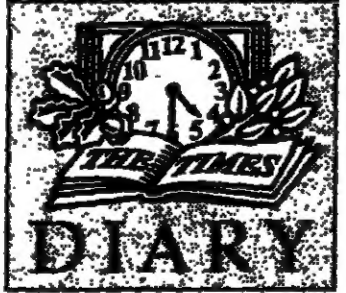
ONE of the last acts of 1991 was intended to result yesterday in Britain formally recognising the new republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Yet as Big Ben struck 12, the year expired with British recognition still withheld from two of them, Kirghizia and Tajikistan.

As ever, the course of history was changed by cock-up rather than conspiracy. Each republic was faced a questionnaire seeking assurances on, among other things, human rights and nuclear arms. In order to be granted recognition the republics were asked to fax their replies. If the answers were satisfactory, recognition was expected to follow automatically.

Unfortunately, nobody at the British Foreign Office had taken



account of the less than reliable state of communications in the far-flung republics of Kirghizia and Tajikistan. Quite simply, it seems, the required answers were not supplied because the questions were never received by the two fledgling republics. The machines had broken down.



The Foreign Office refused to discuss the matter yesterday, other than to describe it as a "technical hitch". Casderegah and Metternich never had such problems.

## Last year's message

CRISIS, what crisis? With gloom over the economy growing almost by the hour, John Major's New Year message released today suggests that the prime minister has adopted Jim Callaghan's now infamous phrase from the winter of discontent.

The upbeat tone of the message appears to take little account of the pressure on sterling, the plunge in business confidence or the restive murmurs of previously loyal backbenchers. Hardly surprising. "It was written before Christmas. There has been no last minute tinkering," says a spokesman. That means Major's message was conceived in the aftermath of Maastricht, when many Tories believed the election had been won on the battlefield of the EC. So why was the message not updated? After all, Major has had plenty of opportunity. He could have scribbled revisions on the back of his opera programme the other night, or during half-time while watching Chelsea play at the weekend. But the message was not only written, but printed before Christmas,

ready for distribution to all Conservative associations by today, so proving the dictum of another former Labour prime minister, Harold Wilson, about seven days being a long time.

● The Soviet Union lives on — at least as far as the Royal Mail is concerned. "Letters addressed to the new Commonwealth of Independent States should still be marked 'USSR'," says the Royal Mail. There is even someone, somewhere deep within the bowels of the post office whose job it is to write "USSR" on any pieces of mail which fail to comply. "We have received no notification of any change. Of course we are abreast of what is happening, but if you mark CIS on your envelopes we will have to put USSR on it."

## Vine so far

IMBIBERS of those robust, spicy Algerian wines can enjoy a new year's glass of their favourite bottle of red infirmary today, safe in the knowledge that supplies are not about to dry up following the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the country. The Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce says there is no immediate threat to such tipples as Mascara and Trappe, while in Algiers itself, anxious foreign correspondents touring the port's restaurants also report no immediate cause for concern. The wine is still flowing freely in such haunts as the St George's Hotel, where Winston Churchill stayed during the second world war.

The Islamic Salvation Front has promised "to give priority to the agriculture sector". That may just mean that if it forms a government economic necessity will overrule religious fundamentalism and a blind eye will be turned to the lucrative exports from the vineyards. But political as much as religious

sensitivity means that some of the more popular labels, such as Curvé du Président, may have to be renamed. What price Curvé du Mullah?

## Garters, suspenders...

SO Sir Brian Rix wants to take his new seat in the Lords as Lord Rix of Whitehall. He will have some trouble getting the idea past Sir Colin Cole, the member of the Queen's household quaintly known as the Garter King of Arms, who tells the great and the good what titles they may adopt.

Cole's negotiations with peers over their titles can be protracted. Lady Ryder of Warsaw was in discussion for almost 12 months before her title was agreed. Lord Clinton-Davis, the former EC commissioner, who was ennobled in 1990, also had trouble with the garter king, who insisted that because the former Labour minister had been plain Clinton Davis without the hyphen, he should change his name by deed poll to add the hyphen before his peerage could be gazetted. "It is a pantomime. You sit down with him and haggle. I lost, others have won but I can't see Brian Rix getting away with a title like that."

● Another sign that the recession is not as dead as Norman Lamont would have us believe: research by Smithkline Beecham shows that the company's sales of hangover cures, which usually increase tenfold at this time of the year, are down sharply in London and the south. By contrast, sales are booming in the Midlands and the north, says the company. And on that note a very happy new year to all our readers, both north and south of Watford, whether or not you are in need of a cure this morning.



## GOOD EUROPEANS

Douglas Hurd today joins Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, and João de Deus Pinheiro of Portugal on the troika of European Community foreign ministers. For the next six months Britain will be deeply involved in shaping European Community foreign policy until in July it takes over from Lisbon the presidency and responsibility for all other fields as well. How should it use its new responsibility? How, first, should it play Europe while the Portuguese newcomers to the presidency try to consolidate and implement the Maastricht treaty?

John Major has survived his first great European challenge and done so handsomely. The Community has moved a hesitant step forward with Britain still party to the argument, if not to all the solutions. But already some of the sceptics' more dire predictions have begun to look real. Germany's handling of Croatian recognition angered its partners and violated the spirit of Maastricht. Britain could have vetoed the eventual "conditional" compromise but felt bound to go along with those who reluctantly decided that Germany, for the sake of paper unity, had to be accommodated. France has likewise given short shrift to the principle of collective industrial policy in its creation of a new nationalised electronics cartel.

For Mr Major there is an important choice here. Does he come on strong as the "new European", railing against European backsliding among his partners and demanding fierce imposition of collective discipline? Or does he merely point out their hypocrisy and, like them, pursue national interest whatever the thrust of EC directives and other policies?

The answer is a judicious mix of the two. Britain was in the right at Maastricht and remains in the right in pursuing "appropriate" collectivity. There are good reasons for majority voting on trade matters so there should be firm action on GATT, CAP reform and implementation of single market directives. There are good reasons for majority voting on aspects of industrial policy. There are even good reasons for some supranationalism on

the environment. On social policy, the hapless Portuguese must make sense of a political fudge and define the limits of Community responsibility in an area where 11 members have collectively opted out but still maintain that the EC has competence.

More important than rehearsing the arguments that raged in the run-up to Maastricht is Mr Major's need to emphasise the second thrust of his strategy: his assertion that Britain is engaged at the heart of Europe. There are two good reasons for this. One is domestic and electoral: the prime minister, having satisfied his critics on the Tory right, must break free from their carping embrace if he is not to be outflanked by Labour portraying itself in the campaign as the "party of Europe".

The second reason bears on Britain's membership of the troika and forthcoming presidency. By a quirk of alphabetical order, Britain will be the first "big" member for six months to help shape EC responses in a turbulent world. It joins a country whose foreign minister is urbane and articulate but who carries relatively little weight in the world's eyes. Portugal, an ancient ally, would welcome Mr Hurd's calm authority in dealing with a fragmented Soviet Union, a continuing civil war in Yugoslavia, GATT negotiations that appear to be going nowhere and the possible unravelling of the EC agreement with the European Free Trade Association. Advice carries greatest weight when delivered "at the heart of Europe".

For the next six months Mr Major must also, home his priorities for the British presidency in close consultation with Lisbon. If they are lucky, the Portuguese may preside over a quiet period of digestion, while the Community assimilates its huge gulp at Maastricht. It will be left to Mr Major, if he is still prime minister, to cajole his partners into the remaining difficult concessions before the single market can be completed at the end of the year. He must now show them that however cavalier they may be with their Maastricht commitments, Britain takes its place in Europe seriously.

## TRUSTING TO CONFIDENCE

John Major and Norman Lamont may soon have to stop their ears to cries of "We told you so." Yesterday both stamped on suggestions that sterling should be devalued — or "realigned" — within the European exchange-rate mechanism, the prime minister allusively and the chancellor emphatically. By doing so, they could soon be in exactly the position of which critics of the ERM have been warning for years: forced to raise interest rates to protect the pound. Even though such a move is clearly against the interests of the British economy.

They hope, by talking confidence up, to avoid the dilemma altogether. Mr Major, in his new year's message, claimed that "we are now seeing the first signs of recovery, and all forecasters expect to see our economy growing again in the coming year". Mr Lamont, in an interview with the *Financial Times*, said he was confident that "we will see a clear resumption of economic growth over the coming year". And yet this was the day the CBI's chief economic adviser, usually more bullish than his counterparts in the City, nearly halved his growth forecast to a laggardly 1 per cent.

If the prime minister and his chancellor are right and the economy is healthier than almost everybody else believes, a small rise in interest rates to protect sterling's position in the ERM may do little economic damage. But even if the effect on consumer confidence were such as to delay recovery by just a few months, it will pile more misery on those who are already starting to fear that the recovery is as elusive as Godot.

Moreover, a half-point rise may not be enough. If higher interest rates postpone recovery and prolong the pain enough for Labour to increase its lead in the polls, the pound may come under further pressure, necessitating another rise in rates. And so, messily, on. Sterling's level against the mark

has become almost a measure of manhood. It seems that nothing — not even the threat of smothering the first faint breath of recovery — can persuade the government to realign it. True, chancellors have to talk tough to win that elusive epithet of "credibility" with the markets. Yet when currencies join the ERM, they are expected to feel their way somewhat tentatively towards a stable rate. Like a ship, they must find a place of stability, the first try may be too high or too low. Realignment need only be an embarrassment if a government has set too much store by sticking to the original range. Having put the pound into the ERM at the wrong time and with the wrong exchange rate band, Mr Major has foolishly allowed his government's entire economic credibility to turn on keeping it there.

Yet when Sir Geoffrey Howe allowed the pound to devalue sharply in 1981 nobody doubted his virility. Nor need devaluation now give an unwelcome boost to inflation. The economy has slack enough to soak up any marginal inflationary pressure. And if interest rates were cut along with the pound, as they should be, lower mortgage rates would actually reduce headline inflation and with it wage demands.

Now that the other European currencies have gone along with the Bundesbank's interest rate rise, there is no chance of Britain being bailed out by a revaluation of the mark — though that, of course, is what pure economists would dictate. The government's only hope is that international investors will suddenly decide to take a more sanguine view of sterling than they did last week. Perhaps they will. It is possible that talking tough will be enough. But if Mr Lamont really is as dogmatic as he sounds, he may have done the economic equivalent of digging a deep hole, jumping in, and shovelling soil on top of himself.

## BREAKING RECORDS

The Gannex cliché says that a week is a long time in politics. In the long view of history, 30 years is but the twinkling of an eye. Thirty years ago, British troops were sent to Kuwait at the request of the Emir to protect our interest in his oil from Iraqi aggression. The Conservative party was split down the middle over Europe, and the Cabinet decided that the safest policy was to go along with the European Community, but grumbling the while and without much enthusiasm.

The home secretary wanted to reform the law to permit Sunday trading, but was advised that this would be a grave political embarrassment in the run-up to a general election. Mr Benn was busy on the wilder shores of Westminster. It seems like yesterday, not the beginning of the Sixties.

The private records of cabinet and other government discussions in 1961, opened to public inspection today under the 30-year rule, are fascinating enough in parts to be an annual godsend to newspapers pressed for material at the icy cusp of the news year. By now, however, almost all their contents are known by bona fide historians. Did the public really have to wait so long to read of these interesting but by no means sensational or dangerous matters? The Thirty Year Rule comes up for review later this year. It has outlived its purposes. With the end of the Cold War, most of the Niagara of documents classified and kept from public view cannot be described as sensitive in the extreme acceptance of the word.

Every year about a shelf-mile of files of public records joins the 85 miles already in the Public Record Office at Kew. Of this, nearly 300 feet or 5 per cent are kept closed

even beyond 30 to 50, or 75, or even 100 years. Some are closed for all eternity. For 1961, the cabinet minutes dealing with the George Blake case and the Portland spy ring are still kept under wraps in the basement at Kew. A great deal more official material never gets even as far as the PRO, but is shredded or retained indefinitely by the government department where it originated.

Britain is a notoriously secretive official society, more so than other countries in the free world — and the world is becoming increasingly free. The only good reasons for keeping official papers as secret as the real colour of Ronald Reagan's hair are compelling national security, and continuing personal sensitivity. The latter is the reason that the details of the private lives of the generation of late Victorians, gathered in the national census of 1891, will be opened by the PRO only today.

One of the better reasons for the 30-year rule is the fear that politicians and officials would be inhibited from giving their opinions freely, if those opinions were to be published immediately. But they already are — in leaks to the lobby and the memoirs of politicians. Ambition should be made of sterner stuff: saving politicians from embarrassment is a poor reason for secrecy. Publicity performs the function today of the slave who rode in the chariot behind the Roman conqueror on his triumph, murmuring to him: "Remember you are only mortal." Should the British really have to wait until the year 2021 to learn the private views of their current rulers on such topics as Sunday trading, immigration, the death penalty, and Britain's role in the European Community?

## Fall-out from expanding nuclear club

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Your powerfully argued leading article, "Nuclear insurance" (December 28), raises issues which go beyond the fortuitous adhesion to the nuclear club of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belorussia and must include the response to this expansion of the traditional anti-nuclear left.

Can we expect a huge, well-orchestrated public demonstration against a new threat to use nuclear weapons? Or indeed mass protests about the continued retention of the British deterrent, marked by huge meetings in Hyde Park or Trafalgar Square addressed by Bruce Kent, E. P. Thompson, Frank Allau and Tony Benn? I suspect not. Why?

Because the West's nuclear capability is no longer poised to retaliate against the Soviet Union, which was the most potent motivating force behind the rise of CND. The truth is now clear for all to see, even if many refuse to identify the obvious.

The intellectual hold of the former Soviet Union over the British left on strategic issues has a long and depressing history. Its roots are in the nuclear age by several decades, beginning with the widespread influence of the pre-war Association of Scientific Workers. Leading scientists also backed the Cambridge Scientists Anti-War Group which was directed towards assisting the Soviet Union resist bourgeois states allegedly bent on destroying socialism.

The rise of Hitler's Germany changed all that and within a few years the likes of Patrick Blackett, J. B. Haldane and J. D. Bernal were heavily involved in mobilising scientific power against fascist Germany (the Soviet Union's implacable enemy) by supporting British rearmament.

What price patriotism then for the left in the 1990s, now that the myth of socialism has died a thousand deaths? Well, Labour's reaffirmation that it would be more prudent to retain nuclear weapons than to surrender them might suggest that the anti-nuclear left in 1992 will pass into timely oblivion.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS  
(Director),  
Institute of Political and  
Economic Studies,  
Warkworth House,  
Warkworth Street, Cambridge.  
December 30.

From Commander Robert Green, RN (ret)

Sir, World events in the past year have exposed nuclear "deterrence" as a fundamental illusion of our time. I take no pleasure in acknowledging this reality, having flown nuclear weapons around in Fleet Air Arm Buccaneers and anti-submarine helicopters and later helped to provide round-the-clock intelligence support for Polaris.

It took the Gulf war to shock me out of my pro-nuclear brainwashing. The first Iraqi Scud attack on Israel

demonstrated that possession of nuclear weapons would not deter an "aberrant Third World dictator" of the kind mentioned in your leading article. Possession might, on the other hand, provoke or encourage extremists to acquire them. Threatening use of nuclear weapons is the ultimate expression of megalomania and terrorism.

Now, just as the Commonwealth of Independent States is struggling to divert resources from the military-industrial complex, Trident threatens to play into the hands of the hardliners, costing over £9 billion out of the naval budget.

Something else has to give: so with other submarines being cut from 22 to about 16 and destroyers/frigates from 47 to about 40, Trident looks set to reduce the Royal Navy to almost as weak a fighting force as the French navy. Trident will be even more dependent than Polaris on US satellite communications and intelligence, spare parts and good will: so much for our "independent deterrent".

The government, I submit, should therefore cancel Trident and the RAF's planned tactical air-to-surface missile, scrap the crippled Polaris force, and end testing in Nevada. Thus would Britain be restored to a pivotal world role: the first nuclear power to reject nuclear weapons as a lethal blind alley, deterrent only of true security.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT GREEN,  
The Old Bakery,  
Leigh, Sherborne, Dorset.

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, As we enter 1992, we must all hope that President Yeltsin will make it a priority to continue constructive developments towards a post-atomic age.

The first day of the new year has been designated by the Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief as the first World Memorial Day, a symbol of hope for a safer and better world. Politicians and prominent public figures are urged to wear the memorial badge made out of scrap metal from the Pershing and SS-20 nuclear rockets.

An amendment to an early day motion placed earlier this month on the parliamentary order paper to bring attention to World Memorial Day looked forward to similar badges being made from scrapped Polaris missiles. Surely this is sensible. As part of the Ministry of Defence's continuing review of its Options for Change, the strategic and national security requirement for Polaris's planned successor, Trident, should also be given serious re-examination in the light of the "bewildering" changes of which the Queen spoke in her message to the Commonwealth at Christmas.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID LOWRY (Director),  
European Proliferation  
Information Centre,  
258 Pentonville Road, N1.  
December 26.

## Tradesmen's calling

From Sir Duncan Watson

Sir, I rather liked the Reverend John Ticehurst's idea (letter, December 27) for a periodical re-jigging of surnames based on occupations but would he extend that to cover all the Smiths? If he did, I suppose there would be plenty of new surnames for them, e.g. Entrepreneur, Speculator, Banker, Broker, Consultant, Liquidator, and double-barrelled ones too — Computer-Programmer, Rock-Singer, Production-Manager, Refuse-Collector (or, if you're a bit old-fashioned, Binman) and Disco-Jockey.

With my common patronymic, I escape the Ticehurst plan; but if I was a Plumber I think I would opt for the new name Retired — a

surname which would soon outnumber the Smiths, but at least would not have to be re-jigged.

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN WATSON,  
Scone, Steels Lane,  
Oxshott, Surrey.  
December 27.

From Mr James Pollock

Sir, In this village, within a long street's throw of each other, are Mrs Tuohy, who will put an excellent tuck in your clothes, and Mr Draper, who makes fine curtains.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES POLLOCK,  
Mill Yard,  
Burnham Market, Norfolk.  
December 29.

## Fire-bomb attacks

From Mr Stewart Kidd

Sir, The recent spate of fire-bomb attacks on retail premises (reports, December 9, 10, 16) has focused a long-overdue appreciation of the value of automatic sprinkler systems. Your own newspaper has mentioned the fact that in virtually all cases, fires started by incendiary devices have been extinguished automatically.

There are still a few people, including at least one senior police officer, who seem to believe that when a sprinkler system is activated, all the heads go off. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is clear from examination of official reports of the incidents at Brent Cross, Tottenham Court Road and the

Arndale Centre, Manchester, that in every case, fires were extinguished with fewer than four heads operating.

Sprinklers, which generally use less than 15 gallons of water a minute, not only put out fires, but cause less water damage than is usual when the fire brigade have to apply water at a rate of 250-300 gallons a minute in unprotected buildings.

To quote the chief fire officer of Manchester, "without sprinklers, we would have lost the Arndale Centre".

Yours sincerely,  
STEWART KIDD (Director),  
The Fire Protection Association,  
140 Aldersgate Street, EC1.  
December 19.

## Patients in waiting

From Dr Andrew Baker

Sir, In the week when the patient's charter arrived in every home in the land a 77-year-old widow, living alone on a large estate in Bermondsey, her only close relative 150 miles away, was having another heart attack. Her neighbours rang me, her GP, and I called. She was grey, sweating, breathless and acutely ill.

I dialled 999 and joined the queue for an ambulance. I was told that the service was stretched and the traffic bad but one would arrive within 20 minutes. I telephoned the nearest hospital, from where my patient had been discharged three days before, and discussed her case with the registrar on call. He said he was sorry: their acute beds had been cut

and I must try somewhere else. The next nearest hospital was also closed for acute admissions. The ambulance crew arrived and I agreed the patient must be taken to the nearest casualty department. Thankfully, she survived.

This is not an isolated case. A few months ago, for example, a patient of mine with a suspected ectopic pregnancy was refused admission by all the hospitals in central London. Eventually she was taken to Farnborough, Kent, 14 miles from her home. A few weeks ago an 81-year-old heart patient, also having a heart attack, was refused admission by the

department of medicine for the elderly at Guy's hospital. The kindly senior registrar explained that they had overspent and were obliged to reduce the number of beds.

## What should they know of England?

From Mr James D. Graham

Sir, Few Scots think of England as a vicious oppressor, but many of us feel that the ignorant, arrogant and self-centred attitude of the English leads to what is effectively a negligent oppression whereby Scotland's interests are rarely addressed. When even professionals are unaware of, or worse, choose to ignore the multi-national aspects of the United Kingdom in favour of Little England, is it any wonder that the Celtic fringes become disgruntled?

For example, Mr Robin Reeve, a headmaster, apparently thinks that A-level and other aspects of education south of the border apply to "the country". In a context that obviously means Britain (letter, December 13). Equally oddly, Mr Brian Teley, whose letter you published on the same day, praised the "English" 50-pence piece.

Previously (December 3) you published a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir John Webster — a servant of the Crown, who therefore should know better — asking his daughter a trick question about the King of England broadcasting on the radio: there has been no "King of England" since May 1, 1707, when the kingdoms of Scotland and England were united.

The vice-chairman of the Queen's English Society (December 6) bemoaned the Americanisation of British English, with no regret for the destruction of Scots, the cousin of English, and the continued anglicisation of their mongrel offspring, standard Scottish English.

Lord Abernethy (also December 6) was equally wrong to believe that "every voter would prefer to keep our currency". I, for one, see no intrinsic difference between the pound sterling and the ecu, both are supra-national currencies to simplify international exchange within a common market.

The Reverend Oliver McTernan (December 9) thinks that the archbishopric of Canterbury is of British concern, and a solicitor, whom you published on the same day, states that Sunday closing is UK legislation. At least in the leader on December 7 covering the subject you simply ignored the Scottish experience of legal Sunday opening.

Pearls start off as pieces of irritating grit and grow into something very different, unpredictable except through hindsight. Irritation with Anglo-centralism can change national pride to nationalism; but then, most English people seem not to care about the United Kingdom except as an extension of federation in Europe, denying it to the unimportant parts of the United Kingdom.

All the more honour, then, to *The Times* for its third leader of December 19 celebrating the new university chair of the Scots language and the quiet Scots tongue itself as part of Britain's culture along with, but different from, English.

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. GRAHAM,  
544 Paisley Road West, Glasgow.

From Dr Sheena M. Macrae

Sir, Your editorial (December 19), "Scots unscathed", could have been laudable in praising the richness of the Scots language. The tone, how-

ever, swiftly degenerated via factual mistakes ("kirk" is a Scandinavian import, not Scots) into paternalistic chauvinism.

To say that Scots is better at expressing "the common talk" than southern English is to misunderstand language most fundamentally. All language, in its regional and social varieties and its written and spoken registers, is good for communication of all types.

It is social expectations that allow language to be seen as good for a specific purpose. Those speakers of southern English (Cockney or Wimbledonian) will find all Scots alien. This does not mean that its speakers are linguistic bumpkins — only good at talking homey talk, whether dressed up in posh Gorbals or not.

If Scots in its parochial quaintness were to be considered the most adept purveyor of commonality, where does that leave our Chaucers, Shakespeares and Ben Eltons? All these chaps can use dialect for the common touch, too.

Yours faithfully,  
SHEENA M. MACRAE,  
4 Hanover Court,  
Mount Hermon Road,  
Woking, Surrey.

From Professor Emeritus Frank Musgrove

Sir, When a significant amount of our political life has been displaced across the Channel we may at last devote appropriate time, talent and resources to other vital areas of our national life like philosophy, science, literature, industry and technology.

Hard on the heels of a single currency and political union with Scotland in 1707 came David Hume, Tobias Smollett, William Robertson, James Watt, Henry Mackenzie, Robert Burns and Walter Scott. With its political life effectively displaced 400 miles south to Westminster, Scotland was free to direct its energies into new fields of endeavour.

Democracy is a splendid thing but in England it has become a self-righteous and all-consuming obsession. The profession of politics and the enormous post-war explosion of related activities, from opinion research to political journalism and television punditry, have absorbed a wholly disproportionate share of scarce resources and ability.

Politics and its ancillary callings have offered an undue array of glittering prizes. Few today, in my view, would rather write a *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* than become prime minister.

A single currency, a central bank and European union will help us to regain a sense of balance and enhance rather than diminish our sense of national identity. We can confidently expect in the twenty-first century a British-led Age of Improvement, a new Enlightenment. A civilised and improving society is not so totally besotted with politics as we have become.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FRANK MUSGROVE,  
Dib Scar, The Cedar Grove,  
Beverly, Humberside.  
December 30.

## Art export controls

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Lord Shelburne (letter, December 21) condemns the reviewing committee on the export of art's (re)luctant recommendation that certain works should be banned from export by being listed without compensation to the owner.

But from a practical point of view, who would be in a position to take professional responsibility for the value for insurance purposes of a work of art in the absence of any clarification of this confused state of affairs? Would it be expected to be based on its international value or the much narrower British one?

More significantly, how could the Museums and Galleries Commission, when advising Mr Tim Renton, Minister for the Arts, fairly assess the value of works of art being offered to the nation in satisfaction of tax? In any case, what equitable appeal procedure would owners have in the event of a controversy over value?

It is surely up to the minister to enlighten us on this apparently intractable problem, bearing in mind the evident danger of what is tantamount to expropriation of private property.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE LEVY,  
H. Blairman & Sons Ltd.,  
119 Mount Street, W1.  
December 26.

## Alcohol intake

From Dr Robert M. Lefever

Sir, Dr John Rae (letter, December 26) is right in pointing out the impossibility of convincing the public that three drinks daily are good for them while four are bad. As the director of an alcoholism treatment centre, I am certainly not convinced.

Surely if we advise the whole population to follow a particular course of action we overlook individual genetic variation. The correct approach is to advise alcoholics (who cannot predict how many more drinks they may have after taking the first drink on any day) to be totally abstinent and to go to Alcoholics Anonymous, while the rest of the population need only to judge whether their alcohol consumption at any time leads to damaging consequences to themselves or others.

Sincerely,  
ROBERT LEFEVER,  
2a Pelham Street, SW7.

## Welcome to 1992

From Miss Xenia M. T. Murray

Sir, The new telephone number of the Commission of the European Communities in London ends with the digits 1992. Bravo!

Yours faithfully,  
XENIA M. T. MURRAY,  
23 Dunton Road, Steyley,  
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

## Left right behind

From Mr Graham Tillotson

Sir, What's the difference between 1977 and MCMLXXVII? The answer: about ten seconds, or at least it is for me, as someone not familiar with Roman numerals.

So why are these ancient symbols used to designate the copyright date at the end of so many television programmes, especially when they disappear from the screen just as you are well advanced in deciphering them?

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM TILLOTSON  
(Aged XLIV),  
Oakleigh, Steels Lane,  
Oxshott, Surrey.  
XXVI XII MCMLXCI.







# Half-yearly promotions in the Armed Forces

**Royal Navy**  
The provisional selections for promotion effective on 31 December 1991 are announced in June 1991, for officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Women's Royal Naval Service are confirmed.  
The following provisional selections have been made for promotion to date 30 June 1992. The early promotions to Lieutenant Commander are effective on the date shown:  
**SEASIDE**  
CAPTAIN A J Lyle, C V Lyle, B A Lyle, C Lyle, D Lyle, E Lyle, F Lyle, G Lyle, H Lyle, I Lyle, J Lyle, K Lyle, L Lyle, M Lyle, N Lyle, O Lyle, P Lyle, Q Lyle, R Lyle, S Lyle, T Lyle, U Lyle, V Lyle, W Lyle, X Lyle, Y Lyle, Z Lyle.  
**ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE**  
CAPTAIN A J Lyle, C V Lyle, B A Lyle, C Lyle, D Lyle, E Lyle, F Lyle, G Lyle, H Lyle, I Lyle, J Lyle, K Lyle, L Lyle, M Lyle, N Lyle, O Lyle, P Lyle, Q Lyle, R Lyle, S Lyle, T Lyle, U Lyle, V Lyle, W Lyle, X Lyle, Y Lyle, Z Lyle.  
**ROYAL MARINES**  
CAPTAIN A J Lyle, C V Lyle, B A Lyle, C Lyle, D Lyle, E Lyle, F Lyle, G Lyle, H Lyle, I Lyle, J Lyle, K Lyle, L Lyle, M Lyle, N Lyle, O Lyle, P Lyle, Q Lyle, R Lyle, S Lyle, T Lyle, U Lyle, V Lyle, W Lyle, X Lyle, Y Lyle, Z Lyle.

**Women's Royal Naval Service**  
The provisional selections for promotion effective on 31 December 1991 are announced in June 1991, for officers of the Women's Royal Naval Service are confirmed.  
The following provisional selections have been made for promotion to date 30 June 1992. The early promotions to Lieutenant Commander are effective on the date shown:  
**SEASIDE**  
CAPTAIN A J Lyle, C V Lyle, B A Lyle, C Lyle, D Lyle, E Lyle, F Lyle, G Lyle, H Lyle, I Lyle, J Lyle, K Lyle, L Lyle, M Lyle, N Lyle, O Lyle, P Lyle, Q Lyle, R Lyle, S Lyle, T Lyle, U Lyle, V Lyle, W Lyle, X Lyle, Y Lyle, Z Lyle.  
**ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE**  
CAPTAIN A J Lyle, C V Lyle, B A Lyle, C Lyle, D Lyle, E Lyle, F Lyle, G Lyle, H Lyle, I Lyle, J Lyle, K Lyle, L Lyle, M Lyle, N Lyle, O Lyle, P Lyle, Q Lyle, R Lyle, S Lyle, T Lyle, U Lyle, V Lyle, W Lyle, X Lyle, Y Lyle, Z Lyle.  
**ROYAL MARINES**  
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## ON THIS DAY 1855

At the present time wheat was, in England, worth about 10s a bushel, whereas in Russia it could be bought for 2s and thus, as a pecuniary question, it was desirable that the war should be terminated, apart from higher ground of the Christian duty of putting an end to such fearful scenes of bloodshed as were now taking place in the Crimea. He did not wish to say on whom the blame of the war rested, but he was desirous that each of his friends would use his influence to promote peace, should an opportunity of so doing present itself.

Mr Thomas Sturge recalled to mind the horrors of the wars of the French empire, during which period it was computed by the most credible historians that 5,000,000 human beings were slaughtered. During the seven years of the Wellington campaigns 70,000 British lives were destroyed; and at the battle of Waterloo, where there were under 40,000 British engaged, no less than between 800 and 900 officers, and upwards of 10,000 soldiers, were destroyed. And he was of opinion that if the war in the Crimea continued there would be an equal loss of life.

### THE "FRIENDS" ON THE WAR

Three notable members of the Peace Society, and of the Society of Friends, spoke at a Christmas meeting of the Friends of the Peace Society, on Tuesday night, on the subject of the war. Mr Joseph Sturge, one of the deputation from the Society of Friends to the Czar, Mr S. Bowly, the peace and temperance advocate, and Mr T. M. Sturge, of Gloucester.

Mr Joseph Sturge, after alluding to his mission to St Petersburg, with the view of bringing about a termination of hostilities, expressed his firm belief, notwithstanding all that had been said against the Emperor of Russia, or whatever might be the evils existing in his Government, that there was no man in Europe who more earnestly desired a return of peace than that monarch, provided it could be done consistently with what he regarded as the honour of his country.

He also alluded to certain accusations which had been made against himself in a letter that had been published, he having been accused of a desire to promote the war, because it kept up the price of grain, and, in another part of the same letter, he said he was charged with wishing to put an end to the war, simply because it interfered with his trade.

Providence had, however, placed him in such a position that personally he would not feel the effect of the war further than being now unable to obtain grain from where he could formerly procure it; but he was unable now to give employment to as many men as formerly, and he feared matters in this respect would grow worse.

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Second division promotion race

# Leaders at risk of tripping in the rush

By Clive White

THE second division scramble for a berth on board the premier division's luxury liner next season is nothing if not exciting. Six clubs today contemplate the possibility of leading the race into the new year and a lot more besides still nurture hopes of clamouring aboard for the maiden voyage come early May.

It is, therefore, not surprising that no one is making any bold predictions. Kenny Dalglish and John Beck, the managers of the two leading clubs, Blackburn Rovers and Cambridge United, will not be drawn on discussing the immediate future — like the struggle today for supremacy between their respective clubs at Ewood Park.

Beck has been keeping mum for a couple of weeks and even insisted that his players also maintain a silence after they had been allegedly misquoted by the press. Dalglish, not renowned for being talkative, views Cambridge, one senses, with the same mixed feelings of respect and abhorrence that he once held for Wimbledon.

He will be relieved to be playing Cambridge at a time when the long-ball protagonists seem to have lost their killer instinct, as seven draws in ten games testifies. Blackburn may also have taken a little heart, from reaching half-time all square with Cambridge at the Abbey Stadium just three weeks ago, albeit in a match played in frozen conditions.

The match was also welcomed by Graham Scarr, the Cambridge coach, who had

obviously not taken the vow of silence. "Meeting the leaders away may not look like the type of match we want," he said, "but really it's ideal. It will concentrate everyone's minds."

Cambridge are set to recall Dennis in place of Baillie, who is struggling with a back injury. Claridge, who has scored ten goals this season, is still unavailable as is Cheetham, who is to have a cartilage operation.

There is a possibility of the sides counteracting one another, which, if they do, will present an opportunity to Ipswich Town, Middlesbrough, Southend United and Leicester City to leapfrog them.

Southend, who are at home to Newcastle United, appear to have a good chance of profiting at the leaders' expense. Newcastle are without Brook, who has a hamstring injury, and have dropped Hunt because he has not scored an away goal all season. Howey takes over.

Middlesbrough, who share with Portsmouth the distinction of being the only clubs unbeaten at home this season, will have that record put to the test by the visit of Derby County, whose away form is without equal in the division.

Ripley returns to a Middlesbrough side who "need to regain their pride", in the words of Lennie Lawrence, the manager, while even better long-term news could be that Hendrie, out for seven weeks with an ankle injury, makes a comeback in a Central League game tomorrow.



Forwards we go: The Woking manager, Geoff Chapple, looks ahead with his twin strikers, Steve Milton (left) and George Friel (right)

## Woking's dilemma is off the pitch

By Walter Gamble



GEOFF Chapple, the Woking manager, has an important date in his diary for January 9, when he will meet the management committee to discuss the increasing demands the job is making on his time. He will be arguing from a strong position, win or lose Saturday's FA Cup third-round tie against Hereford United.

Woking have moved 17 points clear in the Diadora League and a place in the GM Vauxhall Conference is theirs for the taking. The decision on whether or not to appoint a full-time manager is one the club will have to deal with high-pressure stuff with Prudential Insurance, Chapple said. "It's reached the stage where it's one thing or the other."

Last season's Cup exploits, winning 4-2 at West Bromwich Albion and losing 1-0 at Everton, entranced a nationwide audience. Such is the quality of the football played by the side, still without the injured Tim Buzaglo but shrewdly reinforced by discards from Football League clubs in the forward pairing of Steve Milton and George Friel, and Lawrence Barry, an outstanding goalkeeper, that the supporters come to expect success.

The increasing numbers that fill the Kingfield ground have switched their anxieties

towards the club's capacity to keep pace off the field, to whether the old way of fixing things will give way to an operation openly geared to generating the cash to fuel further advance.

The club was struggling when Chapple took over in 1984. "When I played for Woking, for three or four years, I played under seven managers," he said. "It was ridiculous. When I was appointed, I told them you just cannot treat a manager that way and to their credit, I'm still here. I told them I needed five years to turn things round and that's what it took." He insisted on a three-month period of notice being written into a contract.

Chapple suffers from being a man "who wants things done yesterday". He has a relationship of affectionate exasperation with Ted Hills,

the club chairman, which has led Chapple to gesture such as spending £500 out of his own pocket on red and white goal nets that match the club's colours. The club's main benefactor remains its president, Leslie Gosden, an 86-year-old former builder, who with Charlie Jarman, a 96-year-old who will be in the stand on Saturday. They helped to buy the club's 11-acre site for £6,000 off the Woking Sports Company after the second world war.

Eighteen months ago, Woking persuaded Paul Elmer, a chartered surveyor and former club chairman, to return to draw up plans for ground developments. Armed with the cash from last season's Cup run, Elmer's design for covered terracing behind one goal spared nothing and has been adopted by the Conference as

the standard for future designs. He has prepared plans for extra terracing, new turnstiles and toilet blocks at an estimated cost of £100,000.

"The club will do all the work that it is necessary to get into the Conference," Phil Ledger, Woking's long-serving secretary, said baldly. Both men's fathers, almost inevitably, served the club.

A year ago, Gosden wrote to a supporter to explain Woking were not going to appoint a commercial manager because the club had suffered under a previous appointment. Within weeks, Peter Braund became commercial manager. All those on the terraces wearing the bright red baseball caps of the "Cardinals" — after the town's links with Cardinal Wolsey — would agree that sometimes the tide of change can be irresistible.

## Hibernian intend to haul back leaders

By Our Sports Staff

HIBERNIAN, the most improved side in the Scottish League this season, could go third in the Scottish premier division today if they beat their Edinburgh rivals, Heart of Midlothian, and Celtic lose to Rangers. Hibernian, who recovered from the brink of liquidation to win the Skol Cup this season, have tended to be overlooked in most title calculations.

The championship appears to be a contest between Hearts and Rangers but Alex Miller, the Hibernian manager, said: "If Celtic and ourselves were to win the derbies in Glasgow and Edinburgh it would put a different complexion on the title chase."

"Hearts have been consistent and merit their position at the top of the table but if we assert our authority on the game early, we are capable of getting both points."

The Hibernian goalkeeper, John Burridge, aged 40, has a finger injury and is replaced by Chris Reid, aged 20, who makes his third appearance. Hearts, who are two points ahead of Rangers, are virtually certain to be unchanged at Tynecastle.

Aberdeen's Dutch forward, Hans Gillhaus, could return against Dundee United after being banished to the reserves for two games. He scored three times in those two matches and is added to the squad; along with Paul Mason. United give late fitness checks to Jim McInally and Victor Ferreira.

The Falkirk forward, Eddie May, cracked a bone in a leg against St Mirren on Saturday and is ruled out for at least six weeks. He and the suspended Simon Stanrod are missing at home to Airdrieonians, who have Evan Balfour back after suspension.

Steve Kirk is likely to be recalled by Motherwell for the suspended Nick Cusack against St Mirren, who have not scored in five games and Paul Lambert. Thomas Spickforth and Kenny McDowall may all start.

Tony Mowbray, the former Middlesbrough defender, steps into his first Old Firm derby, at Parkhead, since joining Celtic for £1 million in November.

"All I've heard since day one is people talking about the Old Firm game on New Year's Day," he said. Mowbray has played just three games for Celtic after being injured for six matches.

Celtic are eight points behind Rangers and ten adrift of Hearts, whom they play at home on Saturday.

Charlie Nicholas, who injured his pelvis at Aberdeen on Saturday, is unsure of starting against Rangers, and may be replaced by Tony Casarino. Gary Gillespie's lack of match practice may count against him returning after a four-week absence.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, has Nigel Spackman and Mark Hateley back in his side.

Jim Leishman, who resigned from Dunfermline Athletic in 1990, is the new manager of the first division strugglers, Motherwell.

### CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISION

**Arsenal v Wimbledon**  
Since the FA Cup probably represents Arsenal's last chance of winning a trophy this season, it would be helpful to them if they could travel to Wrexham for the third-round tie on Saturday with a win under their belt, instead of another failure. Gould, who has a groin injury, will be missing, as will as Limper, who is sidelined for six weeks with a broken jaw. At least Hillier should be back.

**Chelsea v Manchester C**  
Chelsea have suddenly become less erratic. They are now losing matches quite consistently, four of their last five in the League. The sight of City ought to bring out the best in Allen, who has scored three goals in his five games since leaving Maine Road. City, who will again be without their new signing, McMahon, because of knee and hamstring injuries, still ought to have too much self-confidence for Chelsea.

**Coventry v Tottenham**  
Pearce, the Coventry centre back, will have more reason than most to want to avenge the Rumbold Cup defeat against Tottenham, when his indecision presented the London club with their late winner. Back from suspension, he is likely to be the only change to a struggling side which has collected four points from their last two

games. Tottenham will again be without Duff, their main striker, winner on the last visit to Highfield Road, Bergerson and possibly Nayim (hamstring strain). Howells stands by.

**Crystal Palace v Notts Co**  
No respite from injuries for Palace as they enter the new year with Southgate (ankle) and Lister (knee) heading for a three-week stint in the treatment room which Thom and Thomas are still not ready to leave. A run of five consecutive games without a win will not necessarily end against lowly County, who are fighting bravely and not a little enterprisingly for their first division lives. County have just taken two other London scalps in Chelsea and West Ham, and should be unchanged.

**Liverpool v Sheffield U**  
Liverpool will be looking to build on their recent good form while United will aim to prove that their own recovery from a seemingly hopeless position can continue. Wright faces a fitness test on a leg injury so Liverpool call up Hyson, who has been out of favour since the start of the season. Venison, whose move to Everton broke down on Monday, is also in the squad.

**Manchester U v QPR**  
The timely return of Sharpe,

who will be starting his first senior game since the Cup Winners' Cup final last May, could give United a big psychological advantage in the duels to come with Leeds. Robson and Irwin are still injured and Kanchelskis requires a test. Rangers, who have lost only once in their last 10 away games, could present a tougher obstacle than their League position would indicate. United must guard against Wilson, once of Old Trafford, making himself at home.

**Norwich v Aston Villa**  
Despite a pointless Christmas, David Stringer, the Norwich manager, has resisted the temptation to make changes. "We haven't been playing as badly as recent results would suggest," he said. Villa, still hanging on to the coat-tails of the leading pack, call up Price because Kutchuk is expected to switch to left back to cover for the injured Staunton. Albion is fit again but Villa may stick with Daley in a central role.

**Nottm Forest v Luton**  
If Luton can maintain their winning run at the City Ground, we may have to start taking their chances of avoiding relegation seriously. The defeat at Chelsea on Saturday apart, Forest's form has been impressive of late. The absence of Keane, though, should be a



Allen: faces former club

Luton's advantage. A fine opportunity for Sutton to prove to Brian Clough that he ought to be keeping goal for Forest instead of Luton, with whom he is on loan, who have Bernard suspended.

**Sheffield Wed v Oldham**  
In Southampton cannot lift themselves above the relegation zone in the next 11 days, they might as well throw in the towel. Starting today, they play four consecutive matches at The Dell. Their discipline is under scrutiny, but they can afford to be without the tenacious qualities of Harlock, who hopes to have recovered from flu. Everton, who have gone four games without a win, are threatening to make somebody pay soon for their run of bad luck. Collier is again ruled out by a hamstring injury.

**West Ham v Leeds**  
If it is a challenge West Ham are looking for to rekindle their season, then Leeds ought to provide it. Leeds, racing neck and neck with Manchester United for the title, may have to maintain their pace without Strachan because of hamstring pains. Hodgson is responding well to treatment for a back injury. West Ham, with two points from 21, should welcome the return of Thomas to midfield with Allen (hamstring) and Parris (knee) out.

Compiled by Clive White

## Video evidence could clear butting charge

VIDEO evidence has shown that Frank Sinclair's "clash of heads" with the referee Paul Alcock, during Saturday's match at Exeter City with West Bromwich Albion, was probably unintentional.

The Football Association will want to study film of the incident before passing judgment on Sinclair, who is on loan to West Bromwich from Chelsea.

FA officials have not yet received a copy of Alcock's report into the 89th-minute incident in which Sinclair was sent off for violent conduct and left the official with a mark on his nose.

If Sinclair is found guilty of assaulting the referee, he would face a minimum 112-day ban.

However, the Exeter secretary, Mike Holladay, said yesterday after studying a video tape: "Sinclair was not guilty of intentional butting."

"Sinclair comes from an angle and they collide. There is no doubt that the ref's head goes back, and there is a look of horror on the boy's face," Holladay said.

"It does look as though it was an accidental clash." Sinclair, who played four first-team games for Chelsea last season, has two weeks of his Albion loan left. Bobby Gould, the West Bromwich manager, said that he would study the video before deciding whether to take any action.

The last player involved in a similar incident was Vince Hilaire, then of Crystal Palace, in 1980. He was banned for four matches and fined £500 after pushing the referee. Four years earlier, Willie Johnston, of West Bromwich, was banned for six weeks after gesturing a kick towards the referee in a League Cup tie against Brighton.

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### FOR THE RECORD

**FOOTBALL**  
NEVILLE OYDEN COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 3, Wimbledon 1. POINTS: CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: 1, Coventry 0. SURVEY SENIOR CUP: First round: Coventry 1, Nelson Vale 1; Sutton United 0, Cannock 2. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Fulham 2, Everton 1. ESFA ADIDAS CUP: CHAMPIONSHIP: Under-18: Durham 2, South York 1. Under-15: Durham 1, South York 1. Essex 1, Surrey 0. West Yorkshire 3, Northumbria 1. SOUTH-EAST: ENGLAND COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP: Under-18: Essex 4, Surrey 2.

**BASKETBALL**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey Nets 122, Orlando Magic 112. Cleveland Cavaliers 121, Houston Rockets 88. Phoenix Suns 110, Detroit Pistons 103. Chicago Bulls 109, Indiana Pacers 104. Washington Bullets 94, San Antonio Spurs 84. Sacramento Kings 117, Minnesota Timberwolves 109. Denver Nuggets 109, Philadelphia 76ers 93. Boston Celtics 97, Los Angeles Clippers 86. Golden State Warriors 114, Los Angeles Lakers 98.

**CYCLING**  
COLOGNE: Six-day race: Leading positions after first night: 1, A. Kappas (Ger) and E. de Waele (Bel); 2, J. Geoghegan (Ger) and J. Vergerby (Den); one lap behind, 3, R. Sturmer (Ger) and B. Holzer (Switz); 4, T. Oble (GB) and D. Woods (Aus); 5, R. Guntner (Ger) and S. Tourme (Bel).

**ICE HOCKEY**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Quebec Nordiques 5, Toronto Maple Leafs 2. GERMANY: World junior championships: Finland 2, Canada 2, Switzerland 4, Czechoslovakia 2, Soviet Union 7, Germany 0, Sweden 9, United States 6.

**NORDIC SKIING**  
OSL: Biathlon: Sweden: New Year's Eve 15km: Biathlon cross-country race: 1, T. Mogren (Swe), 38m 02sec; 2, B. Dettl (Ger), 38 30.7; 3, T. Langel (Nor), 38 30.7; 4, V. Smorov (Russ), 38 41.5; 5, H. Forsberg (Swe), 38 42.7.

#### TENNIS

WTA: Rankings: 1, M. Seles (Rus), 2, S. Graf (Ger), 3, G. Sabatini (Arg), 4, M. Navratilova (US), 5, A. Sanchez Vicario (Esp), 6, C. Scholtz (US), 7, J. Hingis (Cec), 8, M. Fernandez (US), 9, C. Martinez (Esp), 10, M. Hingis-Franz (Switz). Money winners: 1, Seles, \$2,487,728; 2, Graf, \$1,488,336; 3, Sabatini, \$1,192,971; 4, Navratilova, \$886,516; 5, Sanchez Vicario, \$759,340; 6, Novotna, \$766,362; 7, Fernandez, \$672,035; 8, Capriati, \$558,022; 9, H. Zvereva (Rus), \$505,617; 10, G. Fernandez (US), \$455,228.

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL**  
AFL: Rankings: 1, Oakland Raiders, 2, Houston Oilers, 3, Cincinnati Bengals, 4, Cleveland Browns, 5, Pittsburgh Steelers, 6, Baltimore Colts, 7, New York Jets, 8, San Diego Chargers, 9, Denver Broncos, 10, Kansas City Chiefs, 11, Miami Dolphins, 12, New England Patriots, 13, Buffalo Bills, 14, Los Angeles Raiders, 15, New Orleans Saints, 16, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 17, Minnesota Vikings, 18, Washington Redskins, 19, Dallas Cowboys, 20, New York Giants, 21, Philadelphia Eagles, 22, San Francisco 49ers, 23, Green Bay Packers, 24, Chicago Bears, 25, Detroit Lions, 26, New England Patriots, 27, Buffalo Bills, 28, Los Angeles Raiders, 29, New Orleans Saints, 30, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 31, Minnesota Vikings, 32, Washington Redskins, 33, Dallas Cowboys, 34, New York Giants, 35, Philadelphia Eagles, 36, San Francisco 49ers, 37, Green Bay Packers, 38, Chicago Bears, 39, Detroit Lions, 40, New England Patriots, 41, Buffalo Bills, 42, Los Angeles Raiders, 43, New Orleans Saints, 44, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 45, Minnesota Vikings, 46, Washington Redskins, 47, Dallas Cowboys, 48, New York Giants, 49, Philadelphia Eagles, 50, San Francisco 49ers, 51, Green Bay Packers, 52, Chicago Bears, 53, Detroit Lions, 54, New England Patriots, 55, Buffalo Bills, 56, Los Angeles Raiders, 57, New Orleans Saints, 58, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 59, Minnesota Vikings, 60, Washington Redskins, 61, Dallas Cowboys, 62, New York Giants, 63, Philadelphia Eagles, 64, San Francisco 49ers, 65, Green Bay Packers, 66, Chicago Bears, 67, Detroit Lions, 68, New England Patriots, 69, Buffalo Bills, 70, Los Angeles Raiders, 71, New Orleans Saints, 72, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 73, Minnesota Vikings, 74, Washington Redskins, 75, Dallas Cowboys, 76, New York Giants, 77, Philadelphia Eagles, 78, San Francisco 49ers, 79, Green Bay Packers, 80, Chicago Bears, 81, Detroit Lions, 82, New England Patriots, 83, Buffalo Bills, 84, Los Angeles Raiders, 85, New Orleans Saints, 86, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 87, Minnesota Vikings, 88, Washington Redskins, 89, Dallas Cowboys, 90, New York Giants, 91, Philadelphia Eagles, 92, San Francisco 49ers, 93, Green Bay Packers, 94, Chicago Bears, 95, Detroit Lions, 96, New England Patriots, 97, Buffalo Bills, 98, Los Angeles Raiders, 99, New Orleans Saints, 100, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 101, Minnesota Vikings, 102, Washington Redskins, 103, Dallas Cowboys, 104, New York Giants, 105, Philadelphia Eagles, 106, San Francisco 49ers, 107, Green Bay Packers, 108, Chicago Bears, 109, Detroit Lions, 110, New England Patriots, 111, Buffalo Bills, 112, Los Angeles Raiders, 113, New Orleans Saints, 114, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 115, Minnesota Vikings, 116, Washington Redskins, 117, Dallas Cowboys, 118, New York Giants, 119, Philadelphia Eagles, 120, San Francisco 49ers, 121, Green Bay Packers, 122, Chicago Bears, 123, Detroit Lions, 124, New England Patriots, 125, Buffalo Bills, 126, Los Angeles Raiders, 127, New Orleans Saints, 128, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 129, Minnesota Vikings, 130, Washington Redskins, 131, Dallas Cowboys, 132, New York Giants, 133, Philadelphia Eagles, 134, San Francisco 49ers, 135, Green Bay Packers, 136, Chicago Bears, 137, Detroit Lions, 138, New England Patriots, 139, Buffalo Bills, 140, Los Angeles Raiders, 141, New Orleans Saints, 142, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 143, Minnesota Vikings, 144, Washington Redskins, 145, Dallas Cowboys, 146, New York Giants, 147, Philadelphia Eagles, 148, San Francisco 49ers, 149, Green Bay Packers, 150, Chicago Bears, 151, Detroit Lions, 152, New England Patriots, 153, Buffalo Bills, 154, Los Angeles Raiders, 155, New Orleans Saints, 156, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 157, Minnesota Vikings, 158, Washington Redskins, 159, Dallas Cowboys, 160, New York Giants, 161, Philadelphia Eagles, 162, San Francisco 49ers, 163, Green Bay Packers, 164, Chicago Bears, 165, Detroit Lions, 166, New England Patriots, 167, Buffalo Bills, 168, Los Angeles Raiders, 169, New Orleans Saints, 170, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 171, Minnesota Vikings, 172, Washington Redskins, 173, Dallas Cowboys, 174, New York Giants, 175, Philadelphia Eagles, 176, San Francisco 49ers, 177, Green Bay Packers, 178, Chicago Bears, 179, Detroit Lions, 180, New England Patriots, 181, Buffalo Bills, 182, Los Angeles Raiders, 183, New Orleans Saints, 184, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 185, Minnesota Vikings, 186, Washington Redskins, 187, Dallas Cowboys, 188, New York Giants, 189, Philadelphia Eagles, 190, San Francisco 49ers, 191, Green Bay Packers, 192, Chicago Bears, 193, Detroit Lions, 194, New England Patriots, 195, Buffalo Bills, 196, Los Angeles Raiders, 197, New Orleans Saints, 198, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 199, Minnesota Vikings, 200, Washington Redskins, 201, Dallas Cowboys, 202, New York Giants, 203, Philadelphia Eagles, 204, San Francisco 49ers, 205, Green Bay Packers, 206, Chicago Bears, 207, Detroit Lions, 208, New England Patriots, 209, Buffalo Bills, 210, Los Angeles Raiders, 211, New Orleans Saints, 212, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 213, Minnesota Vikings, 214, Washington Redskins, 215, Dallas Cowboys, 216, New York Giants, 217, Philadelphia Eagles, 218, San Francisco 49ers, 219, Green Bay Packers, 220, Chicago Bears, 221, Detroit Lions, 222, New England Patriots, 223, Buffalo Bills, 224, Los Angeles Raiders, 225, New Orleans Saints, 226, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 227, Minnesota Vikings, 228, Washington Redskins, 229, Dallas Cowboys, 230, New York Giants, 231, Philadelphia Eagles, 232, San Francisco 49ers, 233, Green Bay Packers, 234, Chicago Bears, 235, Detroit Lions, 236, New England Patriots, 237, Buffalo Bills, 238, Los Angeles Raiders, 239, New Orleans Saints, 240, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 241, Minnesota Vikings, 242, Washington Redskins, 243, Dallas Cowboys, 244, New York Giants, 245, Philadelphia Eagles, 246, San Francisco 49ers, 247, Green Bay Packers, 248, Chicago Bears, 249, Detroit Lions, 250, New England Patriots, 251, Buffalo Bills, 252, Los Angeles Raiders, 253, New Orleans Saints, 254, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 255, Minnesota Vikings, 256, Washington Redskins, 257, Dallas Cowboys, 258, New York Giants, 259, Philadelphia Eagles, 260, San Francisco 49ers, 261, Green Bay Packers, 262, Chicago Bears, 263, Detroit Lions, 264, New England Patriots, 265, Buffalo Bills, 266, Los Angeles Raiders, 267, New Orleans Saints, 268, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 269, Minnesota Vikings, 270, Washington Redskins, 271, Dallas Cowboys, 272, New York Giants, 273, Philadelphia Eagles, 274, San Francisco 49ers, 275, Green Bay Packers, 276, Chicago Bears, 277, Detroit Lions, 278, New England Patriots, 279, Buffalo Bills, 280, Los Angeles Raiders, 281, New Orleans Saints, 282, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 283, Minnesota Vikings, 284, Washington Redskins, 285, Dallas Cowboys, 286, New York Giants, 287, Philadelphia Eagles, 288, San Francisco 49ers, 289, Green Bay Packers, 290, Chicago Bears, 291, Detroit Lions, 292, New England Patriots, 293, Buffalo Bills, 294, Los Angeles Raiders, 295, New Orleans Saints, 296, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 297, Minnesota Vikings, 298, Washington Redskins, 299, Dallas Cowboys, 300, New York Giants, 301, Philadelphia Eagles, 302, San Francisco 49ers, 303, Green Bay Packers, 304, Chicago Bears, 305, Detroit Lions, 306, New England Patriots, 307, Buffalo Bills, 308, Los Angeles Raiders, 309, New Orleans Saints, 310, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 311, Minnesota Vikings, 312, Washington Redskins, 313, Dallas Cowboys, 314, New York Giants, 315, Philadelphia Eagles, 316, San Francisco 49ers, 317, Green Bay Packers, 318, Chicago Bears, 319, Detroit Lions, 320, New England Patriots, 321, Buffalo Bills, 322, Los Angeles Raiders, 323, New Orleans Saints, 324, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 325, Minnesota Vikings, 326, Washington Redskins, 327, Dallas Cowboys, 328, New York Giants, 329, Philadelphia Eagles, 330, San Francisco 49ers, 331, Green Bay Packers, 332, Chicago Bears, 333, Detroit Lions, 334, New England Patriots, 335, Buffalo Bills, 336, Los Angeles Raiders, 337, New Orleans Saints, 338, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 339, Minnesota Vikings, 340, Washington Redskins, 341, Dallas Cowboys, 342, New York Giants, 343, Philadelphia Eagles, 344, San Francisco 49ers, 345, Green Bay Packers, 346, Chicago Bears, 347, Detroit Lions, 348, New England Patriots, 349, Buffalo Bills, 350, Los Angeles Raiders, 351, New Orleans Saints, 352, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 353, Minnesota Vikings, 354, Washington Redskins, 355, Dallas Cowboys, 356, New York Giants, 357, Philadelphia Eagles, 358, San Francisco 49ers, 359, Green Bay Packers, 360, Chicago Bears, 361, Detroit Lions, 362, New England Patriots, 363, Buffalo Bills, 364, Los Angeles Raiders, 365, New Orleans Saints, 366, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 367, Minnesota Vikings, 368, Washington Redskins, 369, Dallas Cowboys, 370, New York Giants, 371, Philadelphia Eagles, 372, San Francisco 49ers, 373, Green Bay Packers, 374, Chicago Bears, 375, Detroit Lions, 376, New England Patriots, 377, Buffalo Bills, 378, Los Angeles Raiders, 379, New Orleans Saints, 380, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 381, Minnesota Vikings, 382, Washington Redskins, 383, Dallas Cowboys, 384, New York Giants, 385, Philadelphia Eagles, 386, San Francisco 49ers, 387, Green Bay Packers, 388, Chicago Bears, 389, Detroit Lions, 390, New England Patriots, 391, Buffalo Bills, 392, Los Angeles Raiders, 393, New Orleans Saints, 394, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 395, Minnesota Vikings, 396, Washington Redskins, 397, Dallas Cowboys, 398, New York Giants, 399, Philadelphia Eagles, 400, San Francisco 49ers, 401, Green Bay Packers, 402, Chicago Bears, 403, Detroit Lions, 404, New England Patriots, 405, Buffalo Bills, 406, Los Angeles Raiders, 407, New Orleans Saints, 408, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 409, Minnesota Vikings, 410, Washington Redskins, 411, Dallas Cowboys, 412, New York Giants, 413, Philadelphia Eagles, 414, San Francisco 49ers, 415, Green Bay Packers, 416, Chicago Bears, 417, Detroit Lions, 418, New England Patriots, 419, Buffalo Bills, 420, Los Angeles Raiders, 421, New Orleans Saints, 422, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 423, Minnesota Vikings, 424, Washington Redskins, 425, Dallas Cowboys, 426, New York Giants, 427, Philadelphia Eagles, 428, San Francisco 49ers, 429, Green Bay Packers, 430, Chicago Bears, 431, Detroit Lions, 432, New England Patriots, 433, Buffalo Bills, 434, Los Angeles Raiders, 435, New Orleans Saints, 436, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 437, Minnesota Vikings, 438, Washington Redskins, 439, Dallas Cowboys, 440, New York Giants, 441, Philadelphia Eagles, 442, San Francisco 49ers, 443, Green Bay Packers, 444, Chicago Bears, 445, Detroit Lions, 446, New England Patriots, 447, Buffalo Bills, 448, Los Angeles Raiders, 449, New Orleans Saints, 450, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 451, Minnesota Vikings, 452, Washington Redskins, 453, Dallas Cowboys, 454, New York Giants, 455, Philadelphia Eagles, 456, San Francisco 49ers, 457, Green Bay Packers, 458, Chicago Bears, 459, Detroit Lions, 460, New England Patriots, 461, Buffalo Bills, 462, Los Angeles Raiders, 463, New Orleans Saints, 464, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 465, Minnesota Vikings, 466, Washington Redskins, 467, Dallas Cowboys, 468, New York Giants, 469, Philadelphia Eagles, 470, San Francisco 49ers, 471, Green Bay Packers, 472, Chicago Bears, 473, Detroit Lions, 474, New England Patriots, 475, Buffalo Bills, 476, Los Angeles Raiders, 477, New Orleans Saints, 478, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 479, Minnesota Vikings, 480, Washington Redskins, 481, Dallas Cowboys, 482, New York Giants, 483, Philadelphia Eagles, 484, San Francisco 49ers, 485, Green Bay Packers, 486, Chicago Bears, 487, Detroit Lions, 488, New England Patriots, 489, Buffalo Bills, 490, Los Angeles Raiders, 491, New Orleans Saints, 492, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 493, Minnesota Vikings, 494, Washington Redskins, 495, Dallas Cowboys, 496, New York Giants, 497, Philadelphia Eagles, 498, San Francisco 49ers, 499, Green Bay Packers, 500, Chicago Bears, 501, Detroit Lions, 502, New England Patriots, 503, Buffalo Bills, 504, Los Angeles Raiders, 505, New Orleans Saints, 506, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 507, Minnesota Vikings, 508, Washington Redskins, 509, Dallas Cowboys, 510, New York Giants, 511, Philadelphia Eagles, 512, San Francisco 49ers, 513, Green Bay Packers, 514, Chicago Bears, 515, Detroit Lions, 516, New England Patriots, 517, Buffalo Bills, 518, Los Angeles Raiders, 519, New Orleans Saints, 520, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 521, Minnesota Vikings, 522, Washington Redskins, 523, Dallas Cowboys, 524, New York Giants, 525, Philadelphia Eagles, 526, San Francisco 49ers, 527, Green Bay Packers, 528, Chicago Bears, 529, Detroit Lions, 530, New England Patriots, 531, Buffalo Bills, 532, Los Angeles Raiders, 533, New Orleans Saints, 534, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 535, Minnesota Vikings, 536, Washington Redskins, 537, Dallas Cowboys, 538, New York Giants, 539, Philadelphia Eagles, 540, San Francisco 49ers, 541, Green Bay Packers, 542, Chicago Bears, 543, Detroit Lions, 544, New England Patriots, 545, Buffalo Bills, 546, Los Angeles Raiders, 547, New Orleans Saints, 548, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 549, Minnesota Vikings, 550, Washington Redskins, 551, Dallas Cowboys, 552, New York Giants, 553, Philadelphia Eagles, 554, San Francisco 49ers, 555, Green Bay Packers, 556, Chicago Bears, 557, Detroit Lions, 558, New England Patriots, 559, Buffalo Bills, 560, Los Angeles Raiders, 561, New Orleans Saints, 562, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 563, Minnesota Vikings, 564, Washington Redskins, 565, Dallas Cowboys, 566, New York Giants, 567, Philadelphia Eagles, 568, San Francisco 49ers, 569, Green Bay Packers, 570, Chicago Bears, 571, Detroit Lions, 572, New England Patriots, 573, Buffalo Bills, 574, Los Angeles











Britain finds a speed merchant on ice capable of emulating Torvill and Dean's Olympic success

## O'Reilly takes the short track to gold

BY JOHN HENNESSY

IT HARDLY seemed possible when Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean ended their glittering amateur career in 1984, that we would, so soon after, consider the prospect of a British Olympic gold medal at Albertville in February.

The cupboard, as we then perceived it, was bare to the point where not one British skater was good enough to finish in the top ten in any one event in the 1988 Games at Calgary. The golden sequence of John Curry (1976), Robin Cousins (1980) and Torvill and Dean was coming back to haunt our growing ineptitude.

Yet those following events in Calgary, whether close at hand or by distant television, who were not blinded by humiliating Edwardian buffoonery on the ski-jumping hills, would have detected a glimmer of hope.

In the intervening four years that glimmer has become a shining beacon focused on a young short-track speed skater from the Midlands, Wilf O'Reilly.

Short-track skating was included in the Calgary Games as a demonstration event, the conventional apprenticeship any sport has to undergo before being included in the Games proper, so that it makes its maiden voyage, so to speak, next month. Four "gold" medals were at issue in 1988, two of them won by O'Reilly. He goes to Albertville as the reigning world champion and white-hot favourite. This time there will be two Olympic titles at stake, the 1,000 metres individual and the 5,000 metres relay.

You have to be in O'Reilly's company for only a few minutes to recognise that this son of a West Indian father and an Irish mother is someone out of the usual sporting context. For one thing he is exception-

ally articulate, never likely to go over the moon for anything, and a dabbler in poetry. He is apt to write in rhyme to thank a generous sponsor. He is an art-man's dream, good-looking, with a winning smile to go with a winning personality.

He has, too, a positive personality which may be seen as one of the ingredients of his success, since short-track speed skating is not for yanks. Its character is utterly removed from the speed skating we have come to regard as traditional, where two skaters strut their monotonous measured tread, their eyes fixed on the clock rather than their companion. That kind of skating, like alpine skiing, is not racing at all but a time trial with no place for strategy or tactics.

There is a mass start in short-track skating, held indoors, and, with a severe restriction on space, electrifying bursts of acceleration are called for to impose one's will. That is where O'Reilly's character shows through, because of his abounding self-confidence and will to be first.

"Without that essential element in your make-up," Ken Pendery, the father of British speed skating, maintained, "you're a loser."

According to Pendery, O'Reilly, aged 22, is the best speed skater this country has ever produced. "If everything goes reasonably well," he says, "Wilf will win. He's the one everyone else fears." But note the cautionary qualification. Because of its exciting hurry-burry character, short-track skating can bring down the best, literally as well as figuratively.

If that should happen, O'Reilly might have another sting in his Olympic bow. A 53-second, 400 metres runner, he is also a formidable cyclist and cherishes the possibility of forcing his way into



Poetry in motion: O'Reilly takes the bend in his stride, en route for the Winter Olympics in Albertville

the 1,000 metres team for Barcelona in July.

But the British team is no one-man band. Matt Jasper won the world championship 1,000 metres silver medal in Sydney in March and, with O'Reilly, Stewart Horspool and Nick Gooch, won the relay bronze. One way and another there should be some joyful Briton on February 18, 20 and 22.

Meanwhile, there are signs

of a revival in British figure skating, led by Joanne Conway, returned from the United States to her natural north-eastern habitat, and Steven Cousins (no relation), who has conversely left North Wales for North America, to train with Alex McGowan at Sun Valley, Idaho, a winter wonderland immortalised on celluloid by Sonja Henie and Glen Miller. McGowan, an expatriate Scot, had the distinction of guiding Debi Thomas, of the United States to the world title in 1986.

Conway was fourth in the European championships last season and seventh in the world, but she has been dogged by injury and is a long way short of peak condition required for the European championships in Lausanne from January 21 to 25. She might have time to recover completely before Albertville.

Cousins, at 19 a year younger than Conway, is coming along nicely in the fullness of time. Eighth in the last European championships but only a disappointing sixteenth in the world championships, he was recently, however, seventh in the strong field competing for the Lalique Trophy on the Albertville Olympic ice. But like Conway, he is a rod in pickle for 1994 rather than 1992.

## Medals that do not count ripe for our seizure

For the first time in many Olympic Games, Britain has genuine chances of medals in Albertville. Unfortunately, many of the best hopes are in demonstration events, which do not count in the official medals table.

In 1968, when the Winter Olympics were last held in France, at Grenoble, it was Gina Haworth who produced by far Britain's best achievement on the slopes. Just 0.03sec off a bronze medal in the tough technical slalom event, Haworth's amazing race never really got the credit she deserved.

Most remarkably, one of Gina's team-mates in 1968, Davina Galicia, is again putting on her skis for her country. Twenty-four years ago, Galicia skied to an excellent eighth place in the giant slalom. Now as strong and determined as ever and only a young 47 years old, she is one of our best prospects for a medal in the speed skiing event, which is being run as a demonstration event for the first time.

The brothers Stuart and Graham Wilkie have chased the world speed record for years and at one stage held it for Britain at over 125mph. They will be tucking tightly down the straight track for honours, although with increasing popularity of this high speed event the competition is getting even tougher.

The young and artistic sport of freestyle skiing has one event, the moguls, which enters the Olympic arena for the first time. Yet it is the other two events, the ballet and the aerials, which remain as demonstration sports where Britain has the best chances of success. Both Jilly Curry and Julia Snell have climbed the steps of the podium during previous seasons and Jilly Curry's early season form this year has shown that a hard training programme is reaping dividends and giving a good chance of success.

It was at ski jumping that Britain gained worldwide attention during the last Olympics, not for sporting success but for an athlete who skinned disaster. Best described by Desmond Lynam as the Woody Allen of the slopes, Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards struck a chord with the public and became one of the heroes of the Calgary Games.

Stricter qualifying rules have now closed the door to anyone merely performing on the Olympic centre stage and stealing the limelight from harder working athletes, many of whom became envious of courageous Eagle's success.

In the incredibly demanding cross country and biathlon events it is again Michael Dixon, from Aviemore, who will be the main standard bearer. Dixon, an airman and London-based, was thirteenth in the 20km biathlon at Calgary, the highest British placing ever. He will be joined by Kenneth Rudd (Barmby Moor), Paul Ryan (London), Jason Sklenar (Cheltenham) and Ian Woods (Slough), all five of whom have been building

Konrad Bartelski, who competed with distinction at three Winter Olympics, Sapporo, Innsbruck and Lake Placid, looks at Britain's skiing prospects in Albertville

up World Cup experience. The most punishing of the winter sports are the cross country competitions but all the British sweat and effort expended have yet to produce a medal. Even the flat slopes are slippery.

With our best Olympic success coming in the women's skiing in 1968 with a fourth in the slalom, a sixth in the downhill and an eighth in the giant slalom, the young shoulders of Clare De Pourtales will bear a heavy burden. A reorganised and motivated British Ski Federation is not quite ready to reap any immediate benefit. The target for the women's team will be to get De Pourtales into the top 15 in the slalom to set her on course for the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Norway. These Olympics should be her investment in the future.

The Blue Riband event at Albertville is undoubtedly the men's downhill which will be contested at the home of the great Jean-Claude Killy in Val d'Isère. All British enthusiasts will be watching our three top downhillers, Ronald "Boris" Duncan, and Martin and Graham Bell to see if they can achieve what all Britons would love to see, a medal in this dramatic sport.

The winter has started badly for all three, eroding an initial positive confidence created by Duncan's two summer victories in Chile. Poor performances in the pre-Christmas World Cup races have sapped the energy stored up over the summer and have made what is an extraordinarily difficult task even harder. Apparently disgruntled with the performance of their skis, it is hoped that the Christmas break has been time enough for the team to straighten out the technical problems and work on building up speed for February 9.

The daunting Face de Belvedere is so steep and full of turns that the skis will never be flat, so only the sharpness of the edges will count on that day. Martin Bell's eighth place in Calgary came after a poor season before the Olympics so there is hope again that the boys will rise to the occasion. But it will take a remarkable run down the steep icy course to snatch gold from Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, who is in superb form this winter.

Although the race is for medals any British competitors on the slopes, be they flat or steep, who makes it into the top ten in the world on that day deserves to be held up as a winner.

We have the world's most famous tennis tournament at Wimbledon and imagine what praise a British player would get for reaching the quarter-finals? So, any top ten result in a mountain sport is deserving of the same acclaim. Here's hoping.

## Cardiff's policy is criticised

BY PETER BILLS

THE worst season in living memory for Cardiff rugby club has been criticised by its policy of recruitment of debilitated individuals, one of their former players claimed yesterday.

Alan Glasson, the wing who had two spells with Cardiff before rejoining Newbridge at the beginning of this season, yesterday traced the decline of the club which proudly used to call itself the greatest in the world.

Glasson, one of the leading try scorers in Welsh first division rugby this season, since returning to the small Newbridge club, said: "The atmosphere at Cardiff is wretched and team spirit is non-existent. It has been for over a year now."

"Everyone at Cardiff is looking over their shoulders, fearing the knife in their backs. The coach has been blamed and has gone, but things will not improve until they turn away from their policy of recruiting every star name in sight in Welsh rugby. They have signed too many players and have no spirit, just a bunch of individuals. It is not a team at all."

The rot, set in at Cardiff, according to Glasson, a few years ago. He claimed their policy meant they were interested only in established players, not in a system of promotion within which

would have fostered team spirit and unity.

Cardiff's senior squad has ballooned to an astonishing 67. A small valley club like Newbridge has just 28 in its squad. Yet if they beat Llanelli, the Heineken League leaders, on Saturday at their own Welfare Ground, Newbridge will be within a maximum of two points of the lead in the table with a game in hand. In recent weeks, Newbridge have beaten Neath, Bridgend and Newport.

"The spirit at this club bears no relation to what I found at Cardiff," Glasson said. "There was no incentive for a player like me to stay there. I was only considered a rags player. I only played

when the stars were not available."

"Cardiff categorised people very easily. Unless you are an international you do not make an impact there under the present policy. I am by no means the only player who has suffered from this. Players who have been Cardiff-born and bred and have given much to the club have been treated badly."

Returning to Newbridge has given Glasson a new lease of life, he says. He believes he is playing better rugby now than for some years and thinks Newbridge can challenge for the Welsh title.

"We have no stars," he said. "There is only one player at our club, Prop forward, John Rowlands, who is in the Welsh squad. But the side is still good enough to win the league and there is strength and depth. We have proved this in recent matches."

"Above all, we have a will to win and a great spirit among the players. All the star names in the world cannot give you that and Cardiff will begin to sort out their problems only when they realise that fact."

Cuts and jobs have been an attraction for players going to Cardiff. During last summer alone, the club recruited 11 new players. By contrast, Llanelli, the league leaders, signed just three new men.

## Cautious Wales name 30 in training squad

WALES have kept faith with the 30 players who attended their training camp in Cardiff last weekend and named them all in their five nations' championship squad.

The players, who last Saturday, formed two teams for a trial game which was won 32-31 by the greens over the reds, will reassemble in Cardiff on Saturday for a further three days of training. They will gather after their Heineken League matches on Saturday and train through until Tuesday.

"We will stay as we are for this coming weekend," Robert Norster, the Wales team manager, said. "The commit-

ment from everyone over the weekend was superb and it would be wrong to cut anyone at the moment. We will need a full complement on board for the coming weekend training camp."

With the team to face Ireland in the opening match on January 18 likely to be announced on January 9, it probably means that Wales will go to Lansdowne Road, Dublin, with a minimum of two new caps. They will come in the pack, at second row, and at No. 8.

Tony Copsey, of Llanelli, is the front runner for the lock position, while the South Wales Police No. 8, Sean Legge, could be the other.

The Englishmen, Copsey and his Llanelli team-mate, the scrum half, Rupert Moon, qualify to play for Wales under the six-year residential qualification.

WALLES SQUAD: Backs: M. Raper (Cardiff), A. Clement (Swansea), I. Evans (Llanelli), A. Morris (Newport), M. Tacey (Swansea), S. Taylor (Swansea), S. Gibbs (Newport), J. Ball (Newport), M. Hall (Cardiff), M. Jenkins (Newport), C. Stephens (Llanelli), A. Davies (Newport), R. Jones (Swansea), J. Moon (Llanelli), Forwards: Griffiths (Cardiff), J. Rowlands (Newport), H. Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), L. Chelmsley (Llanelli), G. Jenkins (Swansea), D. Fox (Llanelli), P. Kavanagh (Cardiff), Gareth Llewellyn (Newport), R. Girdle (Cardiff), A. Copsey (Swansea), E. Lewis (Llanelli), I. Davies (Swansea), R. Webster (Swansea), M. Morris (Newport), S. Davies (Swansea), S. Legge (South Wales Police).



Norster: no cuts yet

## Innes affirms professional interest

CRAIG Innes, the New Zealand centre, yesterday revealed he is still considering an offer to play rugby league for Leeds (Peter Bills writes). Club officials showed Innes round the city before Christmas and confirmed details of the deal, which is believed to be worth around £300,000, with inducements on top. Innes was told: "Join us and you will never have to work again after you have completed this contract."

Innes yesterday confirmed Leeds' interest. "I haven't ruled anything out at this stage," he said. "I am still thinking about it. I went up there to look around, but I have not made a decision yet."

The New Zealand Rugby Union selectors have been sufficiently alarmed at the prospect of losing their outstanding centre to have made several telephone calls to his Bedford home. Innes joined

the English second division club after the World Cup, but is scheduled to return to New Zealand in March.

Dean Richards has declared himself fit to play for Leicester in their Courage Clubs Championship match at home to London Irish on Saturday. He takes over from Simon Poveas. Jeff Probyn, England's World Cup prop, makes his first competitive appearance of the season for Wasps against Nottingham.

## SQUASH RACKETS

## SRA wants communication

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE Squash Rackets Association (SRA) will this week extend its hunt for a new chief executive by employing for the first time the services of an executive search consultancy.

Since the resignation of Bob Morris in early December, 119 applications for his job have been received from individuals as widely varied as a redundant refugee collector and peer of the realm.

None has satisfied the criteria established by the SRA appointments panel led by the association's new president, Sir Michael Edwards, the former head of British Leyland. Financial management, staff control and welfare, sponsor and media liaison, and intra-sporting relations are among the duties envisaged for the new squash supremo of England.

More important still, according to a recent report to SRA Council members, the new chief executive will be required to "improve communications with all sections of the game".

Such emphasis on communication skills is almost certainly a response to the manner in which Morris, a retired RAF officer—who has taken up a post as bursar at Framlingham College—successfully consolidated the growth of squash into a national sport with some three million players, but failed notably to win many hearts among either regional org-



Edwards: still looking

anisers or commercial operators. During the 12 years Morris administered English squash, the British Open became an established Wembley spectacular and the national championships grew to a sufficient significance to attract a publicity-hunting charity as its sponsor.

The national leagues also set a pattern for the world game. English players came to dominate both men's and women's junior scenes and rose to increasing presence on the senior international level.

It is a hard act to follow, even disregarding the demand for improved communication, but presumably the summary rejection of 119 enthusiastic applications combined with the imminent employment of a head hunting firm means that Sir Michael and the new appointments panel are determined to find the applicant with the right humour for the job.

## Elopuro becomes Europe's leader

SAMI Elopuro's progress to the final of the lucrative Dutch Open Championship early in December has taken him to the best world ranking achieved by a Finn and makes him the highest ranked European on the new world list issued today by the International Squash Players Association (Colin McQuillan writes).

Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, returns to the world No. 1 spot he lost, seemingly for the last time, 14 months ago and the Australian, Chris Dittmar, is vying with Jansher Khan for second place. But it is the five-place improvement of Elopuro, aged 27, to seventh position that makes the first Ipsa list of 1992 all the more noticeable.

His rise displaces Mark Maclean as top-ranked European, although the ninth-placed Scotsman is still the leading Briton, ahead of six English players and a Welshman in the top 20.

No Scandinavian has previously ranked so highly on the international circuit and, with Elopuro fresh from leading his national side to an unprecedented third place behind Australia and England in November's world team championships, the emergence of Finland as a new power seems assured.

Gary Waite, of Canada, rose 80 places in the past year to enter the top 20 for the first time and Craig Van der Wath, of South Africa, marked the relaxation of sanctions against his country by leaping 116 places to 55th on the new list since entering his first Ipsa tournament in November.

LEADING IPSA RANKINGS: 1. Jahangir Khan (Pak); 2. Jansher Khan (Pak); 3. C. Dittmar (Aus); 4. R. Martin (Aus); 5. C. Robertson (Aus); 6. B. Martin (Aus); 7. S. Elopuro (Fin); 8. J. Norman (NZ); 9. M. Maclean (Scot); 10. T. Hancock (Aus); 11. R. Eyles (Aus); 12. D. Harris (Eng); 13. S. Parke (Eng); 14. P. Marshall (Eng); 15. C. Wallby (Eng); 16. B. Beeson (Eng); 17. A. Davies (Wales); 18. A. Hill (Aus); 19. J. Nopce (Eng); 20. G. Waite (Can).

## Hendry's slump fails to increase the odds

BY PHIL YATES

TWELVE months ago, Stephen Hendry took his unbeaten run in ranking event matches to 36 by reaching the Mercantile Credit Classic final. He enters this year's event, which begins at the Bournemouth International Centre today, in a slump.

Starting at the United Kingdom championship in November, when he was beaten 9-2 by Jimmy White in the semi-finals, Hendry has suffered arguably his worst sequence of results since turning professional in 1985. After losing to White, Hendry was beaten twice by Steve Davis, in the world match play semi-final and the 555 Challenge final in Belgium.

Those defeats have given rise to genuine concern for Ian Doyle, the Scottish businessman who has managed Hendry throughout his professional career. Doyle said: "I've never been so thoroughly shell-shocked by his form. I

can only put it down to a concentration problem."

Despite the three setbacks since Hendry successfully defended his Rothmans grand prix title in October, the book-makers unanimously make him a clear favourite to collect the Mercantile's first prize of £50,000. Doyle, usually undying in support of his client, surprisingly does not agree with their assessment.

"It would be less than honest if I said I was optimistic about his chances," he said. "How could I be confident after his last three defeats? All top players lose matches, that's inevitable, but this is really worrying."

Hendry meets Bob Harris, the world No. 79, in the fourth round. White, the defending champion, plays Mark Rowing. Davis faces Nick Dyson, and John Parrott, attempting to win his third ranking tournament of the 1991-2 season, tackles Steve Campbell.

## VOLLEYBALL

## Dignan leaves Powerhouse in mid-season

BY RODDY MACKENZIE

GLASGOW Powerhouse, the joint leaders in the women's first division of the Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish League, have lost the services of one of their key players halfway through the season.

Claire Dignan, a member of the British Students' team at the World Student Games in Sheffield last summer, has left the club she joined from Edinburgh Jets at the beginning of the season. "She was having difficulty travelling from Edinburgh to Glasgow for training," Vince Krawczyk, the Powerhouse coach, said. "She did not want to turn up on a Saturday and go straight into the starting six after not attending training." It remains to be seen whether she will return to her former club.

On the international front, England's senior women's team returns to action this week with two matches against Lithuania in London.



## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Gallagher is again left out by Leeds

By Keith Macklin

ONCE again there is no place for John Gallagher, rugby league's most expensive signing, in the Leeds team to take on Salford in the Stones Bitter Championship at Headingley today.

Gallagher, the former All Black full back, has been playing in the reserves to recover his form and confidence. Despite an injury to his fellow New Zealander, Morvin Edwards, Gallagher has been overlooked again by Doug Laughton, the Leeds coach, and Phil Ford steps back from the wing to take the No. 1 spot.

Leeds will be looking for a repeat of their Regal Trophy semi-final win over Salford, whose form has dipped since. With home advantage Leeds should keep ahead of the pursuing pack.

Derbies west of the Pennines mean that some Leeds challengers will lose points. Second-placed Wigan travel to Warrington, while St Helens and Widnes meet at Knowsley Road.

Wigan will be without their captain and New Zealand international centre, Dean Bell, who has damaged his ligaments. Sam Parnham comes into the squad, and Andy Gregory will be captain.

For Warrington, the Welsh centre, Alan Bateman, plays his first senior game for seven weeks in the absence through injury of Tony Thornley. There is a doubt about David Lyon at full back, and Chris Rudd stands by to move back from the three-quarters.

The St Helens coach, Mike McClellan, is anxious for a win to renew the champion-

ship challenge after three defeats in the last four matches, one of them in the Regal Trophy semi-final against today's opponents, Widnes. St Helens will be without the wing, Anthony Sullivan, who has hamstring trouble, and this gives an opportunity for Alan Hunte to reclaim his place.

Widnes will be without the injured Alan Tait and Phil McKenzie. Stephen Wynne moving to full back from the wing.

Martin Offiah has turned down a request from Widnes for discussions before the Challenge Cup deadline, and there is no sign of Offiah getting his wish to be transferred. Widnes are holding out for at least £500,000. Wigan have come nearest with a package worth £450,000.

The West Yorkshire derby at Wakefield gives Castleford the opportunity to maintain their hopes of making a challenge for the championship.

In the second division, Leigh are at home to Oldham, and are looking to keep the pressure on Sheffield.

In the third division, the derby match between the promotion-chasers, Dewsbury and Batley, could set an attendance record for the division, beating the 4,119 who watched these two teams in the 16-16 Boxing day draw.

Scarborough Pirates have dismissed Len Casey, their coach.

Trifford Borough have appointed Gary Ainsworth as caretaker-coach until the end of the season.

## ICE HOCKEY

## Redskins stage a tribute

WHEN Alec Goldstone died last June at only 53, British ice hockey lost one of its shrewdest team managers and a man who was liked and respected throughout the sport (Norman de Mesquita writes).

Under his stewardship, Streatham Redskins reached the Heineken championships at Wembley in 1985 and it is fitting that this evening's testimonial game at Streatham (face-off 6pm) features the same Wembley squad, with the exception of Craig Melanson and Doug Merkosky, who are back in Canada, against a team of old and present Redskins.

The teams will be captained by Alec's sons, Tony and Adam, and will be coached by Red. Imrie, who coached at Wembley, and the present player-coach, Darrin Zinger.

The team manager in ice hockey is much like a theatrical producer in that he is responsible for the acquisition and most advantageous use of talent. Alec Goldstone was an excellent judge of an import and always insisted that the youngsters who had come through the Streatham system had adequate ice time so that they could develop.

It is testimony to Alec Goldstone's success that 11 clubs are represented in tonight's icearts.

## BRIDGE

## Simpson forges strong alliance with Wright

By Albert Dormer

THE year ended on a high note for Britain's leading players as they dominated the English Bridge Union's year-end congress at the Park Lane hotel, London.

Colin Simpson forged a powerful alliance with Lionel Wright, of New Zealand, and won the Swiss pairs by a wide margin from David Parry and Catherine Fishpool.

Simpson also took the mixed pairs with his wife, and Parry won the men's pairs with Andy Bowles.

The top scoring performance was by Brian Claridge and Keith Harrap, who compiled almost 70 per cent when

they won the open pairs. The Harpers and Queen women's pairs provided a satisfactory result for the English selectors, when the three leading places were taken by candidates in the women's international training scheme, led by Nicola Smith and Pat Davies.

Overseas players were kept at bay in all but one event. Nissan Rand, the Israeli world championship player, partnered by Modi Konigsberg, teamed up with Barry Rigal, Peter Czerwinski and Gordon Lessels, from Ireland, to outclass the field in the Swiss team event.



All to play for: Cab On Target, centre, leads Winnie The Witch, left, and Nomadic Way over the last at Cheltenham yesterday

# Cab On Target meets champion

By Michael Seely

CAB On Target is firmly on course for a meeting with Morley Street, the reigning champion hurdler, on January 25 after just getting the better of Winnie The Witch in a thrilling battle for the Spa Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday.

"We're going for the Bishop's Cleeve Hurdle over two-and-a-half miles," said John Fulton, husband of the joint winning owner, Anne. "After that, we'll decide whether to go for the championship or the three-mile."

The fortunes of war certainly fluctuated on the final climb. Cab On Target touched down just ahead of Winnie The Witch at the last flight with Richard Dunwoody striving desperately to keep Nomadic Way in the hunt.

At the line, Cab On Target was a short head to the good with Nomadic Way, the 13-8 favourite, finishing a disappointing third, two lengths away. "He just wasn't good enough on the day," Dunwoody said.

Cab On Target, now undefeated in three races this term for Mary Reveley, had excelled himself in conceding 13lb to the runner-up and 8lb to a horse who has been runner-up in the past two Champion Hurdles.

Speaking from Catterick, where she had landed a double, Mrs Reveley said: "He must be one of the best hur-

diers in the country. We didn't think he could possibly give all that weight away. We only ran him here to get him ready for the Bishop's Cleeve."

Mrs Fulton, who owns yesterday's winner in partnership with James Murray, also has a two-third share in Melotie, the Cambridgeshire winner.

Winnie The Witch, winner of last season's County Hurdle and also of the valuable Swinton Insurance Hurdle at Haydock, had run the race of her life for Ken Bridgwater.

"I bought her for 4,200 guineas after she'd finished last in a Leicester seller. I liked her big ears and bright eyes. Whether she'll now get a chance of winning another handicap, I don't know. We might bring her back here for

the big one in March."

The Martin Pipe-trained Run For Free, second in the stayers' hurdle at the festival last season, ran a fine race on his seasonal reappearance to finish fourth.

Nomadic Way was the third odds-on favourite to be beaten during the afternoon. In the opening Lansdown Novices' Hurdle, Kaher finished one-and-a-half lengths behind Spinning, whom Jimmy Frost sent clear up the hill for a decisive win.

Mainly disappointing on the flat for Paul Mellon and Ian Balding, who is currently on a skiing holiday in Canada, the four-year-old bare run out his race with resolution. "He was a bit novicey at first, but jumped the last well under pressure," Frost said. Frost completed a double of

over 17-1 when bringing Belmont Captain late on the scene to win the Broadway Novices' Chase by three lengths.

"He'll have one more race before going for the four-mile National Hunt Chase," said Toby Balding about the winner of two point-to-points in Ireland. "We hope to get Marcus Armitage to ride him."

Balding then said that Cool Ground had worked on the beach at Sandbanks, near Bournemouth, in the morning, but was unlikely to attempt to repeat last year's win in the Anthony Midway, Peter Cazalet Chase at Sandown on Saturday.

Another Coral was the third odds-on favourite to be beaten, when finishing only third behind Nodform in the

Cleeve Hill Handicap Chase. "We had him tuned up for the Mackeson and the A F Budge Gold Cup," said David Nicholson. "He just wasn't sparkling today."

Nodform, inconsistent because of a tendency to break blood vessels, was ending a losing run of 23 days for Josh Gifford, the Findon trainer. "I'm so glad for Josh and every one in the yard," said Peter Doyle, racing manager to Jim Joel.

The 97-year-old Mr Joel went on to complete a double of just over 20-1 when Dunwoody rode For The Grain to a three-quarters of a length defeat of Elfin in the Fairford Handicap Chase.

"Mr Joel is the life-blood of National Hunt racing," said Nicholson after gaining compensation for another Coral's defeat. "He rang me up at 8.45 this morning and was as bright as a button."

Pipe and Peter Scudamore had their only success of the afternoon when Sweet Glow romped home by two lengths in the concluding Robinson Handicap Hurdle.

Afterwards, Nicky Henderson, trainer of the runner-up Mr Gossip, said that Remittance Man was in fine shape after finishing third in The Fellow at Kempton. "We're going for the Arlington Chase final on January 25," said the trainer. "We're still not convinced that he doesn't stay three miles. But the Cheltenham race is an obvious target."

## Elsworth reduces Ladbroke options

By Dick Hinder

DAVID Elsworth withdrew Major Inquiry and Bookcase at yesterday's latest declaration stage for The Ladbroke, to be run at Leopardstown on Saturday week.

The Whitbury trainer, however, still has the strongest representation for Ireland's richest handicap hurdle, with Riverhead, Fragrant Dawn, Oneupmanship and Shimshak left among 14 British-trained horses in the 36-strong entry.

Riverhead, a 12-1 chance with the sponsors, and Oneupmanship look most likely to represent him.

Clippie Lad, just touched off by Galeville Express in the Bookmakers Hurdle at Leopardstown on Sunday, remains the ante-post favourite at 6-1, although his trainer Liam Browne has not decided yet whether to let the five-year-old take his chance.

Two British hopes quoted at 9-1 are the Mark Toppin-trained Jungle Knife and Martin Pipe's Balasani, who showed a tremendous burst of speed from the last flight to land the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown in November.

The runner-up in that event, Native Mission, is likely to renew rivalry on 5lb better terms for a two-length beating.

Toby Balding's Forest Sun, recently sixth behind Gran Alba at Kempton, misses today's William Hill New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor with Leopardstown in mind. However, if Royal Derby, who tops the weights with 12 stone, drops out, Forest Sun would almost certainly be left with top weight.

Balding said yesterday: "I've not given up hope of running him in The Ladbroke, but if he looks like carrying 12 stone, we may talk ourselves out of it. He would have a lot to find with Riverhead if he had to carry top weight."

John Bransell's How's The Boss was cut to 10-1 from 14-1 by the sponsors, following yesterday's Punchestown victory by the runner-up, Leopardstown victim Ryskul.

SETTING: 9-1 Clippie Lad, 9-1 Balasani, Jungle Knife, 10-1 How's The Boss, 12-1 Native Mission, 12-1 Riverhead, 16-1 Forest Sun, 16-1 Galeville Express, 16-1 Mr Woodcock, 20-1 others.



Balding: open mind on Forest Sun's Irish run

## Docklands Express raised 2lb

DOCKLANDS Express has been put up only 2lb by the handicapper following his surprise second place in the King George VI Rank Chase.

Kim Bailey's charge has been given a rating of 154 despite finishing only one-and-a-half behind The Fellow (rated 166) in Kempton's Boxing Day showpiece.

The rise puts Docklands Express on 1st 6lb in Saturday's Anthony Midway, Peter Cazalet Memorial Handicap Chase at Sandown.

Bailey is also considering Haydock's Newton Chase, a handicapper's event, where Rolling Ball, Sabin Du Loir and Katabatic are among his possible opponents.

His wife, Tracy, said yesterday: "He won't be making a decision until he has a better idea what else may be running."

Stable companion Mr Frisk, also allotted 1st 6lb, is likely to run in the Sandown race as the long as ground conditions, currently good to firm, do not change.

## CATTERICK

MANDARIN  
12.15 Shannon Express. 12.55 Senator Snuggly. 1.15 Polishing. 1.45 Worthy Knight. 2.15 Phalarope. 2.45 Maudslayi Cross. 3.15 Windward Arion.

THUNDERER  
12.15 Henry Will. 12.45 Ralston Ruder. 1.15 Polishing. 1.45 Old Nick. 2.15 Cannon Gold. 2.45 Maudslayi Cross. 3.15 Windward Arion.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

## 12.15 MOTHER GOOSE NOVICES

HURDLE (Div. 1: £1.185 2m) (12 runners)  
1-4-7 BUCKRA MELLUSGA 29 W A Stephenson 8-11.5  
2-6-0 HAPPY CAVALIER 29 R Bar 7-11.5  
3-2-0 HENRY WILL 15 F Fairbrother 8-11.5  
4-0-0 WICK BOY 13 J Cawley 8-11.5  
5-0-0 MAJOR NOK 13 M G Revell 8-11.5  
6-0-0 REY BOY 13 M G Revell 8-11.5  
7-0-0 ROYALIST 13 M G Revell 8-11.5  
8-0-0 SHANDON EXPRESS 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
9-0-0 TOPCLIFFE 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
10-0-0 CARDAMOND 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
11-0-0 KATY KEYS 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
12-0-0 SENATOR SNUGGLY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5

12.45 ROBINSON CRUSOE NOVICES CHASE (Div. 1: £1.185 3m 110yd) (11 runners)  
1-0-0 BILLBAM 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
2-0-0 CRACK-JIM 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
3-0-0 DAD'S RISK 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
4-0-0 GENERAL HARMONY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
5-0-0 SPY HILL 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
6-0-0 WESSEX 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
7-0-0 ZAM BEZ 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
8-0-0 CAROUSEL CROSSETT 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
9-0-0 FEELING ROSEY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
10-0-0 HERRIVALE 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
11-0-0 RAINES RUSTLER 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
12-0-0 SENATOR SNUGGLY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5

1.15 MOTHER GOOSE NOVICES HURDLE (Div. 1: £1.185 2m) (12 runners)  
1-0-0 BILLBAM 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
2-0-0 CRACK-JIM 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
3-0-0 DAD'S RISK 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
4-0-0 GENERAL HARMONY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
5-0-0 SPY HILL 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
6-0-0 WESSEX 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
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11-0-0 RAINES RUSTLER 29 M G Revell 8-11.5  
12-0-0 SENATOR SNUGGLY 29 M G Revell 8-11.5

1.45 PETER PIPER HANDICAP CHASE (Div. 1: £2.206 3m 110yd) (8 runners)  
1-0-0 PRINCE METTERWICH 30 (F.G.S.) M Hammond  
2-0-0 OLD NICK 28 (C.D.F.S.) M H 11-12.0  
3-0-0 LAURENCE 30 (F.S.) M G Revell 8-11.5  
4-0-0 WORTHY KNIGHT 11 (C.F.G.S.) S Melan 11-11.5  
5-0-0 BLANKS SON 36 (F.S.) M W Easterly 7-11.1  
6-0-0 DUBIOUS JAKE 14 (B.F.S.) R Woodhouse 9-10.0  
7-0-0 STIFFMASTER 13 (F.G.) W A Stephenson 7-10.0  
8-0-0 BRYN'S GAZELLE 9 (G.) P 10-10.0  
9-0-0 UNASSUMING 12 (J) J Wainwright 11-11.0  
10-0-0 MAJOR NOK 13 M G Revell 8-11.5  
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# Conditions look ideal for Bigsun

BIGSUN, ideally suited by fast ground and a test of stamina, should be in his element in the ASW Handicap Chase at Cheltenham this afternoon.

He won the race two years ago and had every chance of completing a double when unseating his rider last year. That was an uncharacteristic lapse because David Nicholson's 11-year-old is generally a safe jumper, which will stand him in good stead around one of National Hunt racing's most searching examinations.

He reaped the benefit of two promising runs this season when, on his third outing, he took full advantage of the 20lb he received from Mr Frisk in a Sandown handicap to beat the former Grand National winner by ten lengths. He was blunders for the first time that day and carries them again today.

That Sandown win was his first since he won the Ritz Club Trophy, also at Cheltenham, in 1990, and as a result he has dropped down the handicap to a reasonable mark. He ran in this race last year off a rating of 142 but now, even with a recent win behind him, is 7lb lower.

Despite the bigger field, this year's race also looks a little easier. Last year's winner, Seagram, went on to take the Grand National, while Bigsun also had the race-fit Bonanza Boy and The Langholm Racer with which to contend.

Boracova, a beaten favourite a year ago, turns out again but he is better suited by soft ground and his tendency to make mistakes always threatens to undermine his cause.

Martin Pipe runs Omerta

but he has no easy task under top weight first time out while Rubika, another thorough stayer, is certainly useful but I am swayed against him by the ground. He, like Boracova, prefers rather more give.

A greater threat could be Ace Of Spies, who is in good form this season. He won here in November, beating Bigsun in the process, and remains on a handy mark.

The Steve Smith Eccles Testimonial Chase is an intriguing contest despite its small field. I have a slight preference for Far Senior, trained by Kim Bailey, to beat fellow course and distance winner Bradbury Star.

Far Senior put up a tremendous performance to finish second to highly-regarded stable companion Kings Fountain in an Ascot handicap and again ran well fourth to the high-class



Bailey: fine chance for Far Senior

Mutual at Kempton on Boxing day.

Yorkshire-based Nigel Tinker has a good record on his forays south and he can again be on the mark with Lodestar in the Steel Plate Trial Hurdle.

The four-year-old was an encouraging running-on

fourth to Good Profile, a subsequent winner, at Wetherby last month and with the experience behind him can get the better of Master Glen, the runner-up on that occasion.

At Windsor, the William Hill New Year's Day Hurdle has cut up disappointingly with only five runners. As most of the class horses were withdrawn overnight, the way looks clear for the one remaining quality performer, Royal Derby, to add to his three wins already this term.

However, for the nap I rely on the Jenny Pitman-trained Egypt Mill Prince in the Tote Credit Handicap Hurdle. A course and distance winner here, he was a good second to Shu Fly at Cheltenham in November and again acquitted himself well when four lengths fifth to Balassani in a valuable handicap at Sandown later in the month. This is an easier task.

Handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 7m, 8m, 9m, 10m, 11m, 12m, 13m, 14m, 15m, 16m, 17m, 18m, 19m, 20m, 21m, 22m, 23m, 24m, 25m, 26m, 27m, 28m, 29m, 30m, 31m, 32m, 33m, 34m, 35m, 36m, 37m, 38m, 39m, 40m, 41m, 42m, 43m, 44m, 45m, 46m, 47m, 48m, 49m, 50m, 51m, 52m, 53m, 54m, 55m, 56m, 57m, 58m, 59m, 60m, 61m, 62m, 63m, 64m, 65m, 66m, 67m, 68m, 69m, 70m, 71m, 72m, 73m, 74m, 75m, 76m, 77m, 78m, 79m, 80m, 81m, 82m, 83m, 84m, 85m, 86m, 87m, 88m, 89m, 90m, 91m, 92m, 93m, 94m, 95m, 96m, 97m, 98m, 99m, 100m, 101m, 102m, 103m, 104m, 105m, 106m, 107m, 108m, 109m, 110m, 111m, 112m, 113m, 114m, 115m, 116m, 117m, 118m, 119m, 120m, 121m, 122m, 123m, 124m, 125m, 126m, 127m, 128m, 129m, 130m, 131m, 132m, 133m, 134m, 135m, 136m, 137m, 138m, 139m, 140m, 141m, 142m, 143m, 144m, 145m, 146m, 147m, 148m, 149m, 150m, 151m, 152m, 153m, 154m, 155m, 156m, 157m, 158m, 159m, 160m, 161m, 162m, 163m, 164m, 165m, 166m, 167m, 168m, 169m, 170m, 171m, 172m, 173m, 174m, 175m, 176m, 177m, 178m, 179m, 180m, 181m, 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STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Mid Rates for Dec 31	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
Amsterdam	3,188.90-3,202.1	3,189.30-3,194.3	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Brussels	28,755.00-28,800.0	28,755.00-28,800.0	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Frankfurt	11,012.11-11,030.5	11,012.11-11,036.6	1 1/4-1 1/2	3/4-2 1/2	
Dublin	1,068.97-1,070.1	1,069.10-1,071.1	7-1 1/2	16-7 1/2	
London	2,834.2-2,840.1	2,834.2-2,839.2	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Madrid	179.74-181.81	179.74-181.29	22-24 1/2	142-20 1/2	
Milan	2,140.41-2,157.45	2,140.41-2,147.7	2-2 1/2	73-75 1/2	
Osaka	2,150.2-2,170.2	2,150.2-2,163.1	0.75-1.00	1.40-1.70	
New York	1,866.5-1,875.1	1,866.5-1,868.1	1.00-1.05	1.13-1.10	
Oslo	11,337.1-11,399.2	11,337.1-11,380	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Stockholm	9,666.0-9,738.7	9,666.0-9,708.7	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Tokyo	233.02-234.12	233.02-233.41	2 1/4-2 1/2	5-5 1/2	
Vienna	230.0-232.0	230.0-232.41	1 1/4-1 1/2	3-3 1/2	
Zurich	2,520.1-2,542.2	2,520.1-2,545.2	4 1/4-4 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
Swiss Rand			Premium - 1/2	Discount - 1/2	

Australia dollar	2.4582-2.4606	Australia	1.050-1.101
Bahraini dinar	9.701-9.709	Belgium (Kcom)	91.25-9.28
Brazil cruzado *	1976.24-1981.82	Canada	1.561-1.566
Cyprus pound	0.8070-0.8175	Denmark	5.9195-5.9250
Danish mark	1.172-1.179	France	5.172-5.1825
Deutsche mark	1.180-1.185	Germany	5.180-5.190
Greece drachma	326.40-329.60	Hong Kong	7.7750-7.7800
Hong Kong dollar	14.5150-14.5238	India rupee	1.7325-1.7390
Indian rupee	47.90-48.30	Italy	1148.5-1149.5
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5285-0.5345	Japan	124.8-124.58
Malaysia ringgit	5.0775-5.0850	Netherlands	1.7100-1.7150
Indian rupee	47.90-48.30	Netherlands	1.7100-1.7150
New Zealand dollar	1.4490-1.4594	Norway	5.9760-5.9840
Saudi Arabian riyal	6.9752-6.9782	Poland	124.00-124.50
Singapore dollar	1.0310-1.0310	Portugal	1.6200-1.6220
S. Africa rand (fin)	8.9825-8.9872	Spain	
Swiss franc	5.1415-5.1358	Sweden	5.5475-5.5575
U A E dirham	6.3275-6.3075	Switzerland	1.3540-1.3550
Barbers Bank GTS * (Lloyds Bank)			

MONEY RATES (%)				
Base Rates Clearing Banks 10%	Finance H 11			
Discount Market London Overnight 14%	Low 5			Week fixed 10%
Treasury Bills (Days):	1 m 10% 2 m 10% 3 m 10% 4 m 10% 5 m 10% 6 m 10% 7 m 10% 8 m 10% 9 m 10% 10 m 10%			

PRIME BANK BILLS (DAYS)				
1 m 10%	2 m 10%	3 m 10%	6 m 10%	12 m 10%
Prime Bank Bills (DAYS):	10% 10%	10% 10%	11% 10%	11% 10%
Interbank Market:	10% 10%	10% 10%	11% 10%	11% 10%
Sterling Money:	10% 10%	11% 10%	11% 10%	11% 10%
Overseas: open 10% close 5				

LOCAL CURRENCY DEPOS				
10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Sterling CD:	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%
Dollar CDs:	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%
Building Society CDs:	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%	10% 10%

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: Dec 31, 1991 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1992 to Feb 25, 1992 Scheme I: 11.80% Schemes II & III: 12.06%. Reference rate Nov 30, 1991 to Dec 31, 1991 Scheme IV: 9.7% LOB.82%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)				
Currency	7 day	1 m	3 m	6 m
Dollar	4 1/4-3 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4-3 1/4	4 1/4-3 1/4
Deutsche mark:	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
French Franc:	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
Swiss Franc:	8 1/4-8 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
Yen:	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 1/4

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS				
Bullion: Open \$553.10-553.50	Close: \$553.10-553.50	High: \$553.50-553.80		
Low: \$553.10-553.50	Krugerrand: \$552.40-553.30	@188.45-188.95		
Sovereigns: Gold \$194 (g/oz)	New \$194 (g/oz)			







# Miyazawa gives pledge of backing for Gatt talks

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

MIYAZAWA, Japan's prime minister, said the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks must not fail. He indicated that Japan should change its long-established ban on rice imports.

That would not be possible as once, however, because of domestic political pressures. "We must scrutinise everything to the limit so that the Uruguay Round will not fail," the premier said. "I believe the (Japanese) people have gradually come to realise that we would be in a blame if we do nothing on this."

Mr Miyazawa described as "rational" the proposal by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, for all non-tariff farm import barriers to be converted into tariffs.

At the moment, it was politically impossible to revise Japan's Food Control Law, which bans rice imports, because the opposition Socialist Democratic Party opposed any change. "We must not make an empty promise," Mr Miyazawa said. Last week members of his cabinet said Japan had no plans to open up its rice market; they would postpone a decision on the Gatt proposal until after the January 13 deadline.

Mr Miyazawa said he hoped to issue a "Tokyo declaration" during next week's visit to Japan by President George Bush. It would underline the political partnership between Japan and America to help democracy, freedom and prosperity in the rest of the world.

The premier sought cooperation from the Japanese motor industry to help expand imports of American-made vehicles and to develop components jointly with American manufacturers. "I am asking (domestic makers) to seriously think about the US auto industry," he said.

During his visit to Japan, President Bush will be accompanied by executives of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, the three biggest American car manufacturers. Mr Miyazawa said he wanted to speed up talks with Russia to resolve a dispute over the Kuril islands that has clouded relations with Moscow. (The islands were seized by the USSR in 1945.) He hoped to meet President Boris Yeltsin as soon as possible.

Humanitarian aid, such as food and medicine, would be given priority over other forms of aid to Russia and the other former Soviet republics. Tokyo has consistently turned a deaf ear to appeals for massive financial aid to prop up the collapsing Russian economy, insisting first on the return of the Kurils.



Food for thought: Miyazawa questions rice ban

## ICI chief calls for liberal trading

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SIR DENYS HENDERSON, the chairman of ICI, called on the government to give "first priority" to making world trade talks a success.

A positive conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations on liberalised trade, and resistance to protectionist pressures that threatened to stifle trade growth, were crucial. Sir Denys said it was also essential for the government and UK business to prepare to play a full part in the European single market, which comes into being in a year's time.

Sir Denys predicted "modest growth" in 1992. He said companies well placed to take advantage of the recovery would be those that controlled costs, stayed close to their customers and invested in research and development. ICI has strongly backed the Uruguay Round negotiations, conducted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for the past five years. Arthur Dunkel, director-general of Gatt, has called a meeting of chief negotiators for January 13. It will assess responses to the "take it or leave it" package of draft texts that Mr Dunkel presented on December 20.

Peter Lilley, trade secretary, has written to British business leaders to seek their backing for the Dunkel texts.

## Bond loses appeal on loan guarantee

THE New South Wales Court of Appeal yesterday rejected an application by Alan Bond, the former Australian tycoon, to stay a judgment made in September finding him liable for a US\$194 million personal guarantee on a US\$340 million loan to Dalhousie Investments, his private company, to fund a nickel mine in Queensland.

On Monday, Mr Bond was served with a notice requiring him to pay the money to banks led by Hongkong Bank of Australia. But Stephen Parenti, his solicitor, has said Mr Bond will try to appeal to the High Court, Australia's highest court, against the original judgment. Mr Bond has said his debts exceed his assets by about US\$30.4 million. He resigned in September 1990 as chairman of Bond Corp Holdings, a former US\$7.6 billion brewing, resources, media and property group, which is trying to stave off liquidation.

## TV station bankrupt

LA CINQ, the French television station, is filing for bankruptcy owing to mounting losses. It said it would stay on the air while its case was considered by a bankruptcy court and media regulators. The station blamed its plight on "the attitude of... the government, its media regulators, shareholders and bankers". The announcement had been widely expected after Hachette, the media group, which has a 25 per cent stake, said last week it would stop injecting cash into the station. La Cinq expects to lose more than a billion francs this year.

## Redfern retires

CECIL Redfern, former head of the Godfrey Davis car hire company, has retired as president of its successor, the Davis Service Group, at the age of 74. But he is continuing as chairman of the private Godfrey Davis Trust. Mr Redfern took over as chairman of Godfrey Davis in 1961 on the death of the group's eponymous founder, continuing until three years ago, by which time the daily car hire business had been sold and the group enlarged through the 1987 merger with Sunlight Services Group. Godfrey Davis itself was founded in 1920, with Mr Redfern joining 14 years later.

## Compass enquiry

The Australian government's Trade Practices Commission is to conduct an enquiry this year into the collapse of Compass Airlines on December 20 and the deregulation of the country's aviation industry. The enquiry will examine the competitive environment in which Compass operated, including the strategies of Ansett Airlines, owned by TNT and News Corp, and government-owned Australian Airlines. Compass has said poor airport facilities, leased from its rivals, cost it about Aus\$30 million (£12 million) in lost revenue.

## Acquisition go-ahead

NORTHERN Foods' acquisition of Express Dairy and Eden Vale, Grand Metropolitan's dairy products subsidiaries, will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The trade department announced this in a statement yesterday. In November, Northern Foods agreed to pay £326 million for the businesses, which include the Thayers ice cream and Coldstream distribution operations, financed in part by a £227 million rights issue.

## BMW accelerates

BAIERISCHE Motoren Werke (BMW), the German car maker, expects 1991 sales to rise 10 per cent to 30 billion marks, with a corresponding increase in profits. Sales in 1990 amounted to DM27 billion, while group net profit was DM695.9 million. BMW told *Boersen-Zeitung*, the financial newspaper, that it planned to invest DM2 billion in product development, plant modernisation, and expansion in 1992.

## AGC forecasts loss

AUSTRALIAN Guarantee Corporation (AGC), finance arm of the Westpac banking group, said it expected further losses in 1991-2. In the year to September 30, 1991, it made a net loss of Aus\$114.4 million (£46.5 million). Sir Eric Neal, chairman, said results could not be forecast reliably, but "information currently available" indicated a consolidated after-tax loss. It would cut shareholders' funds to just below Aus\$1 billion.

## Recovery continues in Kuwait

BY MARTIN BARROW

KUWAIT's second largest refinery, badly damaged by retreating Iraqi troops, has resumed processing, consolidating the steady recovery of the emirate's oil industry after the Gulf war.

The Mina Abdullah refinery has a reported capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, half its pre-invasion total. All oil well types have been extinguished and Kuwait is now producing 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The figure is expected to rise to 950,000 barrels per day (bpd) by July, reaching between 1.3 and 1.6 million bpd by the end of 1992.

Kuwait's imminent return to the market as an exporter and the likelihood of a partial lifting of the embargo of Iraq continues to depress oil prices. The widely traded February Brent crude slipped below \$17.50 a barrel yesterday, which may increase pressure on Opec to consider ways of supporting prices.

## Schlesinger stands firm on stability for Europe

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HELMUT Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, has made clear that he still harbours serious doubts about the readiness of Germany's European partners to adopt the culture of price stability.

His new year message, published in the German financial newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, is likely to reinforce City concerns that the Bundesbank will remain focused on the stability of the mark in the run-up to European monetary and economic union, irrespective of the impact this has in other countries. The Bundesbank's aggressive half-point increase of its key lending rates before Christmas, in spite of economic slowdown in Germany and elsewhere in the Community, forced all members of the exchange-rate system, except Britain, to raise their interest rates.

However, unpalatable high British interest rates might be for the British government, it is feared that market pressure will build up so much after the new year holiday that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will have to raise the base rate. Dr Schlesinger's remarks reaffirmed the Bundesbank's tough counter-inflationary stance and offered no hope of any early German easing.

Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, writing in the same newspaper, gave warning that Germany, as the biggest net contributor to the Community budget, has a "special interest" in reduced subsidies and Community spending. He made clear that it was the case of German unification and the opening up of eastern Europe that were now exerting particular pressure for such economies. Ironically, his call for greater Community-wide thrift comes against a background of shrill criticism, especially by the Bundesbank, of Bonn's failure to control its own ballooning deficits.

Dr Schlesinger said the European central bank statutes, participation criteria for EMU, and the political and public attitudes of the Community must centre on stability. He recalled that the

## Tottenham returns to market

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Tottenham Hotspur, suspended since October 1990, reopened at 105p yesterday 24 hours after shareholders approved a £7 million rights issue.

The shares slipped to 100p but were still above the 91p suspension price. Unusually for a rights issue, the 125p offer was at a premium to the previous market price.

The issue is underwritten by Alan Sugar, the chairman, who is subscribing for shares at a cost of £2.5 million. Terry Venables, chief executive, is investing £800,000.

Trading in the shares was suspended when the full extent of Tottenham's indebtedness became apparent. At an extraordinary meeting on Monday shareholders were told borrowings had been cut from £15 million, which included £11 million owed to Midland Bank, to £5 million after the rights issue. Yesterday's closing price values Tottenham at £16 million.

## Dow sets another record

New York — Blue chips opened flat but soared to record levels within minutes as Wall Street's year-end rally continued for the seventh straight session.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 15.10 points ahead at 3,179.11 after the first hour of trading.

Ron Doran, head of institutional trading at CL King and Associates, said: "No matter what this market does today, this will be a historical year and a year when we were taken by surprise."

"We got the action we needed from the Fed to show us they were serious about jump starting the economy."

□ Tokyo — The Nikkei average finished the year strongly on Monday, with a rise of 546.45 points, or 2.44 per cent, to 22,983.77 after the Bank of Japan cut the discount rate to 4.5 from 5 per cent. The market will reopen on Monday.

Hong Kong — Shares closed at a record in half-day trading. The Hang Seng index closed 22.13 points higher at 4,297.33. Trading resumes tomorrow.

□ Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index closed at the day's high of 1,490.70, up 13.72 points. The market reopens tomorrow.

□ Sydney — The all-ordinaries index closed 38.9 points, higher at 1,651.4 after investors went on a buying spree.

□ Frankfurt — Closed for new year holiday. The market reopens tomorrow. (Reuters)

## Sins of the Eighties return to haunt in the recessionary Nineties

# Bezzle hunting — a game for our times

IT WAS a wonderful year for scandal. Yet regulation has never been more rampant. The Securities and Investments Board presides over its self-regulatory organisations like a mother hen at a total cost of about £70 million a year, while the Bank of England, which comes worst out of 1991, has doubled its regulatory staff from 100 to 200.

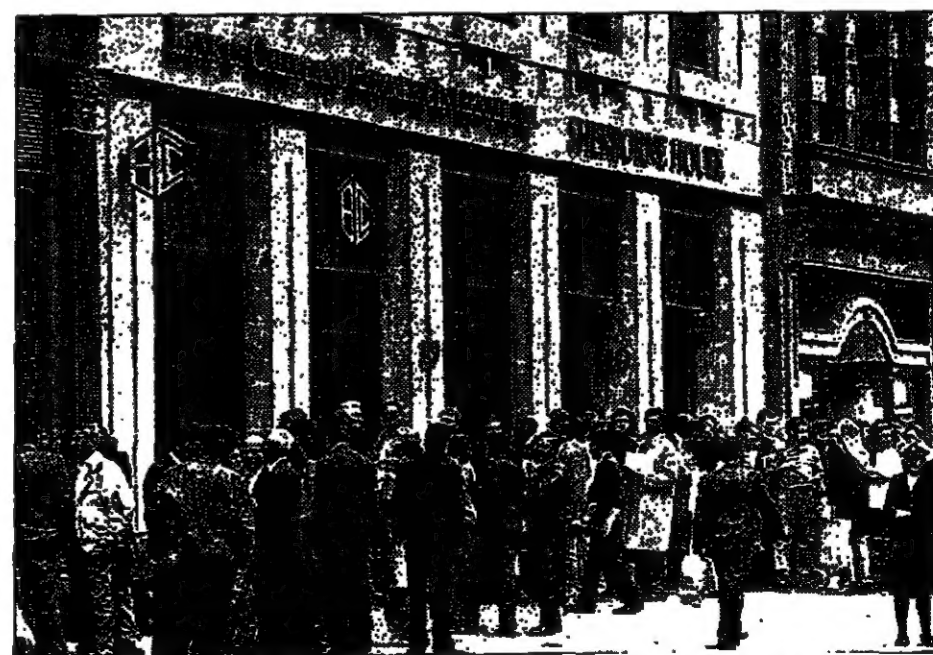
The trade and industry department continues to wield draconian powers while the Serious Fraud Office under Barbara Mills pursues a policy of using expensive sledgehammers to crack nuts to deter potential miscreants.

But the events of last year, in fact the last two years made the regulators as a whole look toothless — even silly. Hind-sight merchants had a field day. Why had BCCI, whose reputation was always dubious, been allowed to continue trading for so long? Why did the banks continue lending to Maxwell when so many suspected he was a crook all along? Where were the trustees of the Mirror Group pension fund? And so on.

Surely, they cry, the whole point of setting up costly new entities such as the SIB and SFO and making complex new laws such as the Financial Services Act and the 1987 Banking Act is to catch wrongdoers before they take in investors, pensioners and colleagues?

Indeed it is. But while the regulators have hard lessons to learn, it is fair to point out that there has been a delayed reaction. Just as the current recessionary misery is the price for the Eighties' economic excesses, so the wave of scandals is the tab for the moral gluttony of that time.

It is hardly a new concept. In *"The Great Crash of 1929"* J. K. Galbraith highlights how the level of embezzlement increases in times of



BCCI victims: staff at the collapsed bank waiting for news at a London branch

economic prosperity, dubbing the amount of undiscovered embezzlement at any one time "the bezzle".

"In good times people are relaxed, trusting and money is plentiful. But even though money is plentiful, there are always people who need more. Under these circumstances the rate of discovery grows, the rate of discovery falls off and the "bezzle" increases rapidly.

"In depression all this is reversed. Money is watched with a narrow, suspicious eye. The man who handles it is assumed to be dishonest until he proves himself otherwise. Audits are penetrating and meticulous. Commercial morality enormously improves. The bezzle shrinks."

This is precisely what we are seeing. During the Eighties, as long as profits and share prices went up, wrongdoing went undiscovered. The lowering of interest rates

after the crash of 1987, allowing another two years of boom, merely postponed the hour of discovery. And just as the Eighties was one of the longest and headiest booms this century, so the rate and scale of scandal is greater.

But it would be wrong to be too philosophical. London has its future as an international financial centre to consider. There have been mutterings that scandals give the place a bad name. Tokyo and New York are in no position to point fingers, but there is the ever-present spectre of Frankfurt taking the lead in Europe.

The view of the Eighties that too much regulation would deter international business is giving way to one of not enough having the same effect. It is not enough to say if someone wants to perpetrate fraud no amount of regulation will stop him. That is like saying if a burglar

is intent on robbery he will always break into a house. If your house is well secured, there is a good chance he will try a softer target.

"You have to decide which City you want to be," says Hugh Aldous, senior partner of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, and author of *The Fayed Report*. "Do you want it to be the City of Panama where anything goes or the City of London, where if I tell you something, you can believe it." He is highly critical of his own profession for complacency. "When public opinion says what was OK in the Seventies is not OK in the Nineties, we have to be prepared to meet the public's expectation."

Mr Aldous calls for a more robust approach by the Bank of England and the DTI. "I think the regulators know what is going on a lot of the time, but they fail to grip the issues. They are too hands off."

too remote, they don't wish to be involved."

The Bank of England is the most obvious culprit. Excellent at retrospective action it may be, but there is a groundswell of opinion that the tradition of eyebrow wiggling is ceasing to be enough.

The collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International plus some minor banks has finally caused the Bank of England to have a rethink. Its defence against holding back from BCCI for so long was lack of evidence. Now it is being mooted within the Bank that where the structure of an overseas bank operating in Britain is opaque and gives it undue secrecy, there should be the power to ban it from trading.

The huge changes in the past five years in regulation have allowed occasional unfairness into the system. Under DTI rules, those suspected of corporate rule breaking do not have the right to remain silent.

But in Guinness — and there is concern it may happen in the Maxwell case — the DTI continued to use this privilege long after those under questioning were suspected of breaking the law. The results are now being used as evidence. White collar criminals in such cases are treated far more harshly than muggers and burglars who are cautioned by police that they have the right to remain silent when they become suspects.

If London is to regain its battered reputation and the "bezzle" is to shrink, it needs more, not less, aggressive regulation. That requires strong people at the top prepared to be seen and heard and take the initiative. As one Bank of England critic said: "The days when Bizzo gave Buffy a pep talk over lunch at Brooks are over."

JUDI BEVAN

Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26
AMT Inc	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2
AMR Corp	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amgen Inc	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2
Amstar Corp	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Inc	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Paper	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Plastics	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Textiles	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Fibers	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Spinning	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Yarns	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Knit	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Hosiery	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Socks	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Undies	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Lingerie	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bras	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Panties	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Corsets	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Girdles	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Shapewear	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Sleepwear	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Nightgowns	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Pajamas	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Robes	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bathing	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Towels	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bed Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bath Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Table Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Napkins	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Dishcloths	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Washcloths	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Handkerchiefs	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Socks	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Undies	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Lingerie	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bras	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
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Amstar Girdles	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
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Amstar Robes	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bathing	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
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Amstar Bath Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
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Amstar Undies	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Lingerie	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bras	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Panties	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
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Amstar Girdles	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Shapewear	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Sleepwear	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Nightgowns	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Pajamas	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Robes	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bathing	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Towels	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bed Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Amstar Bath Linen	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24



Robert Maxwell makes the biggest splash but fails to net the Prawn (Sandwich) of the Year

# Corporate undertakers top class of '91

Matthew Bond reviews the awards for 1991 that shower accolades on the City's winners and losers alike

Britain's seven-year-olds, we are told, are having difficulties mastering the three R's. Would that the same could be said for Britain's business community. Sadly it cannot. Virtually every member of that community has graduated with honours in the three R's of 1991 — recession, redundancy and repossession.

For many business leaders, it was a year of steadily mounting disbelief. Even the stock market grew weary of waiting for the recovery it had spent most of the year discounting. With recovery forecasts slipping from third quarter to fifth or sixth, only the rose-tinted spectacles of Chancellor Lamont could see what for others remained around the corner.

But there were also winners. So despite the too frequently repeated protests that the recession has not been a bonanza for accountants, our Business Person of the Year award goes to the leaders of Britain's insolvency profession. The honour is shared by men whose names became more familiar as the year went on. Step forward Tim Hayward of KPMG Peat Marwick, who hit 1991 running with Levin Group and moved on at various levels of insolvency through City Gate Estates, International Leisure Group, Sheraton Securities, Wallace Smith Trust and Ford Sellar Morris. He shares the award with the administrators who have spent the year running Polly Peck — Michael Jordan of Cork Gully, Richard Stone of Coopers Deloitte and Christopher Morris of Touche Ross.

Were this newspaper misguided enough to award a separate award for Business-woman of the Year, the clear winner would be Barbara Mills, the apparently tireless director of the Serious Fraud Office. Mrs Mills and her investigating officers were everywhere and the sight of her gallant lads loading crates of papers into the backs of vans has become one of the hallmarks of 1991.

However, this newspaper is not. So Mrs Mills will have to be content with runner-up in the main category. She might have won but for the finger-

ing suspicion that, bar the successful Guinness convictions, real progress is a little slow, despite investigations ranging from BCCI to Brent Walker, and no less than four separate enquiries into the affairs of Robert Maxwell. Come to think of it, the Polly Peck creditors are only now facing an initial payment from the administrators of 20p in the pound. Fair's fair — Mrs Mills shares the award with the insolvency wallahs.

**The Nigel Lawson Post-Dated Prize**

This award was actually made in 1988 but its recipients have had to wait until now to get their hands on it. Again a joint award, it is shared between Royal Insurance, Sun Alliance and Eagle Star, the three leaders in writing domestic mortgage indemnity insurance. Such policies used to be money for old rope, but now, with the industry facing losses of £1 billion, should provide enough rope to hang one or two chief executives. The first departure, in September, was that of Michael Butt, of Eagle Star, whose exit was eased by a £400,000 pay-off.

**Prawn (sandwich) of the year** Santa just never arrived for Gerald Ratner. As Christmas shopping drew to a close, Ratners Group shares traded at 27p, against 178p immediately before his spirited remarks to the Institute of Directors in April. Of course, Mr Ratner only described a sherry decanter and glasses as "crap", but his hitherto loyal customers still seem to think he was talking about the full product range.

**The Nostradamus Award for Foresight**

One of the great business decisions of the century was that taken by Peter Walker in July, when he unexpectedly declined the chair of Maxwell Communication Corporation, about three months after originally accepting the job. Mr Walker said his change of heart had nothing to do with a secret report into MCC's finances and everything to do with the fact MCC was predominantly an American company. Others suspect Divine Intervention.

**The Russell Grant Award for Foresight, or the We All Knew That was Going to Happen Prize**



Mixed fortunes: (from left) Gerald Ratner, Barbara Mills, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, Norman Lamont, Peter Walker, Robert Maxwell, Michael Jordan and Iain Vallance

Equal first prize goes to BCCI and the Robert Maxwell empire, both of which had been beset by rumour throughout their business histories. Runners-up prizes to Brent Walker and to Harry Goodman's ILG Group.

**The Lewis Carroll Award for Corporate Treachery**

Previously held by Hammer-smith and Fulham Council, the award this year has to go to the treasury department at Allied Lyons, whose specula-

tive foreign exchange dealings lost the group £147 million and saw the departure of the chairman, chief executive and finance director, respectively Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, Richard Miles and Clifford Hatch. The Ivan Boesky Prize for Market Management

The domestic award is picked up by the London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox), whose four property futures contracts were suspended in October after only five months' trading. The suspension was prompted by the discovery that what little trading there was owed much to the fact that Fox was paying brokers to deal among themselves in an attempt to convince the outside world that real business was being done. The affair cost the job of Fox's chairman and chief executive, Saxon Tate and Mark Blundell.

But the overseas award and

overall winner has to be Salomon Brothers International, the American investment bank that in August admitted it had been using improper means to buy more than its fair share of US Treasury bonds.

**The David Hockney Award for the Biggest Splash**

Robert Maxwell Recipient of the 1991 Poison Chalice

Kevin and Ian Maxwell Scound of the Year

First prize goes to *The Sunday Times* for its headline "Captain Bob swept into stormy seas" on July 21. Second prize to the BBC for leading an October edition of the Nine o'Clock News with a story that GEC was to bid for British Aerospace.

**Non-events of the Year** Hanson's bid for ICI. Lonrho's bid for Brent Walker.

**The Andy Warhol Award for**

**Best Brief Appearance** To Count Alexei Orlov for his cameo role in the Brent Walker saga, as head of the Brent Walker's shareholders' action committee.

**PR Gaffe of the Year** Accidental gaffe of the year goes to Hawker Siddeley, whose unsuccessful defence against the bid from BTR cannot have been helped by a motor cycle courier apparently mislaying part of the defence document some days before publication.

**A** helpful member of the public handed the missing pages in... to a newspaper. The award for gaffes that have been given a helping hand goes to whoever leaked the contents of Lord Hanson's letter to Sir Tim Bell, which berated Bell for his perceived failure to convince the financial world that Hanson's 2.8 per cent stake

in ICI was a splendid thing. Ought winner, however, is Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, who stoutly defended a 12.5 per cent pay rise, which took his pre-bonus salary to £450,000 a year, just days after announcing plans to shed 16,000 jobs over the next 18 months.

**Weakest defence to a bid** The judges were unable to split Hawker Siddeley, which responded to BTR's unwelcome £1.5 billion bid by announcing plans to sell 60 per cent of its businesses, and Ultramar, where the £1.2 billion bid from Lasmo prompted the departure of Ultramar's chairman, deputy chairman and a non-executive director. Both companies now have new owners.

**The Sir Ralph Halpern Prize for Corporate Exits** Joint winners are David Smith and Elizabeth Hignell, who left Isosceles, the Gainsway supermarket group, in

September, with £1.8 million of compensation between them. Runner-up is John Darby, whose exit as chairman of Ultramar after controversy over boardroom pay left him £680,000 better off.

**Short-Term Investor of the Year** The clear winner is Michael Beckett, the former Consolidated Goldfields director, who succeeded John Darby as chairman of Ultramar at the end of October, some seven weeks before Lasmo took it over. In June, Mr Beckett was brought in as chairman of Tace, the environmental control group, by Norwich Union, some six weeks before it was taken over by Cambridge Electronics.

**Long-term Investor of the Year** A collective award to the 47 banks that have finally agreed to refinance Brent Walker's £1.5 billion of debt. Proof that all hope is not lost.

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## Equity bulls save best for the last day

By MICHAEL CLARK  
STOCK MARKET  
CORRESPONDENT

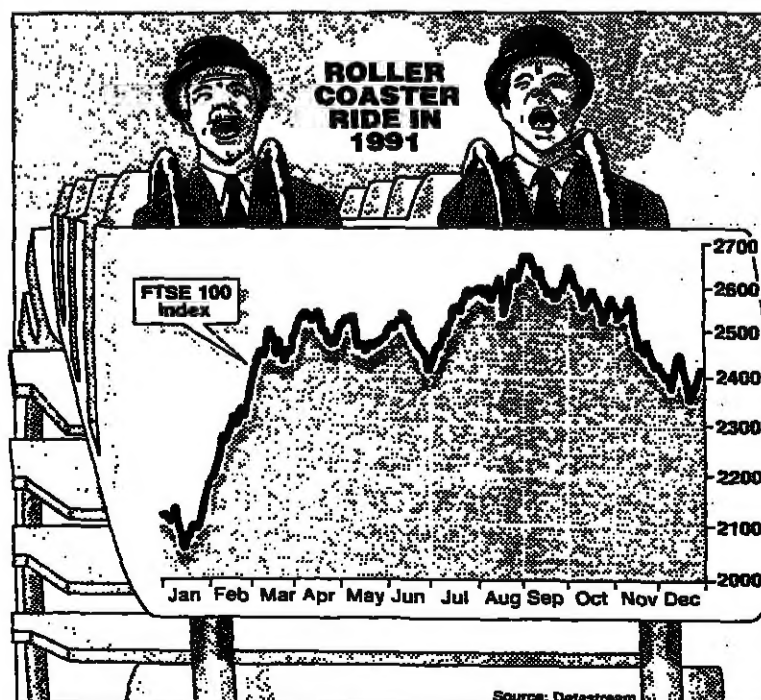
SHARE prices on the London Stock Market ended 1991 on a high note, celebrating with their biggest one-day rise of the year on the back of another record-breaking overnight performance on Wall Street.

In thin trading and a short session the FT-SE 100 index of leading companies almost breached the 2,500 level as prices were marked sharply higher from the outset. The advance was also fuelled by the expiry of the FT-SE 100 index December series futures and options where a large number of short positions had to be covered.

In the event, the index failed to reach its target, closing just below its best with a rise of 73.1 at 2,493.1. The previous biggest one-day rise was in October 1990, when the market leapt 73 points after Britain announced it intended to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism. Since the start of Christmas week, the London market has climbed 134 points, wiping out all of the previous losses recorded in the last trading account.

Its rise on the year is an impressive 350 points, or 17 per cent, which has confounded many of the bears who had forecast the market would continue falling — well into the new year.

However, at present London has little to recommend it on fundamentals alone. Brokers are becoming increasingly cautious about economic prospects. The long-awaited economic recovery, even by the government's own admission, is still some way off.



The pound's weakness on the foreign exchanges means that there is every chance that bank base rates will have to rise and that a number of leading companies will be forced to cut their dividends.

This latest burst of investment euphoria has been generated by growing optimism about the American economy in the wake of the recent cut in the discount rate by one percentage point to 3.5 per cent — its lowest level for 27 years. The Federal Reserve has calculated that this move will help to regenerate the American economy. Its impact has already been felt on Wall Street, where on Monday night the Dow Jones industrial average rose a further 62 points to a record high of 3,163.9 in active trading. In the past ten days alone, the Dow Jones has climbed almost 250 points, or 8.5 per cent. London has been dragged along in

New York's wake, with brokers paying close attention to the traditional gap between the two markets, which has begun to grow. Dealers in London claim the New York Stock Market is being re-rated to reflect the improved prospects for the American economy. Traders in London are hoping that as the gap continues to grow, London will succeed in attracting overseas investors on the look-out for cheap bargains.

The bulk of recent gains in the London market have been largely technical. Selective support has been recorded among international companies and those already enjoying a share quote in the America. Leading the way was ICI, 76p higher at £12.10. That will be good news for Hanson, which is again registering a paper profit on its near 3 per cent investment. Others singled out for attention included Rothmans International B 43p to £11.09, Glaxo 40p to 853p, Wellcome 35p to a record £11.01 and SmithKline Beecham A 43p to 896p.

But market-makers have shown little inclination to open new positions in the run-up to Christmas. Their main aim has been to keep trading positions level and stay out of trouble. Year-end influences for several securities houses have also succeeded in stifling demand. Yesterday, a total of 313 million shares changed hands, which hardly reflects a rampaging bull market.

Leading article, page 11  
Wall Street, page 27

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